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United Nations

Commission on the Status of Women

Report on the fifty-fourth session (13 March and 14 October 2009 and 1-12 March 2010)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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apter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women*

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the text of which is annexed to the present decision, and decides to transmit it to the General Assembly for its endorsement.

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 77-78.

Annex

Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

We, the representatives of Governments gathered at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, in the context of the review of the outcomes of the Conference and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and its contribution to the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council in 2010, on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women", and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, to be held from 20 to 22 September 2010, which will focus on accelerating progress towards the achievement of all of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

1. *Reaffirm* the Beijing Declaration[1] and Platform for Action,[2] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[3] and the declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women on the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women;[4]

2. *Welcome* the progress made thus far towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, stress that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and, in this regard, pledge to undertake further action to ensure their full and accelerated implementation;

3. *Emphasize* that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and stress the need to ensure the integration of a gender perspective in the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on accelerating progress towards the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals by 2015;

4. *Recognize* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women;

5. *Call upon* the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men, to fully commit themselves and intensify their contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* (E/2005/27), chap. I.A.

Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

B. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[5]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[6] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[7] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[8]

Recalling also its resolution 2009/14 of 28 July 2009 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003, on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[9] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[10] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[10] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[11] and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

Expressing grave concern over the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including the

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 79-85.

[5] E/CN.6/2010/4.

[6] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[7] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[8] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[9] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[10] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

continuation of home demolitions, sharp increase in poverty, soaring unemployment, increased food insecurity, incidents of domestic violence, and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and decline in their psychological well-being, and expressing grave concern about the deepening humanitarian crisis and rising insecurity and instability on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip,

Deploring the deteriorating economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including the construction and expansion of settlements and the Wall and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including access for pregnant women to health services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

Gravely concerned in particular about the continuing deterioration in the socio-economic and humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the Israeli military operations and the imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of all persons and goods, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socio-economic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families,

Emphasizing the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[12] the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907,[13] the Geneva

[12] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[13] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[14] and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the international human rights Covenants, in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[6] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[7] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[8]

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[5] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

3. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fourth session and provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fourth session[15] and approves the provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

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* For the discussion, see chap. V, paras. 132-133.

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[15] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* (E/2010/27).

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern, and further actions and initiatives;

   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session.

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 54/1
Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recognizing the significance of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Adopts the declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women** and decides to submit it to the Economic and Social Council for transmission to the General Assembly for its endorsement.

Resolution 54/2
Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS***

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[16] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[17] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[18] the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[19] and the Political

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 77-78.

** For the text of the declaration, see chap. I, sect. A.

*** For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 86-93.

[16] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[17] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[18] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[19] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[20] the HIV and AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[21] and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV, as well as the commitments on HIV and AIDS made at the 2005 World Summit,

Welcoming the in-depth study of the Secretary-General on all forms of violence against women,[22] taking note of the recommendations contained therein, and welcoming the initiative taken by the Secretary-General in 2008 to launch the multi-year campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women",

Taking note of the outcome of the 2008 high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS,

Recalling all previous resolutions on this subject,

Reaffirming that prevention, treatment, care, and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic, and recognizing the need to ensure the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS,

Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are increasingly vulnerable to HIV infection,

Deeply concerned by the increased vulnerability to HIV infection faced by women and girls living with disabilities resulting from, inter alia, legal and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their rights,

Also deeply concerned that the global HIV and AIDS pandemic disproportionately affects women and girls and that the majority of new HIV infections occur among young people,

Concerned that the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV is increased by their unequal legal, economic and social status, including poverty as well as other cultural and physiological factors, violence against women and girls and adolescents, early marriage, child and forced marriage, premature and early sexual relations, commercial sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation,

Also concerned that HIV infection rates are at least twice as high among young people, especially young and married women, who do not finish primary school as among those who do,

Further concerned that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV and have different and unequal access to the use of health resources for the prevention of HIV infection and treatment of and care and support for people living with HIV and affected by AIDS,

Stressing that the HIV and AIDS pandemic, with its devastating scale and impact on women and girls, requires urgent action across all internationally agreed

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[20] General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

[21] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[22] A/61/122 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in all fields and at all levels,

Also stressing that gender equality and the political, social and economic empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV and are essential to reversing the pandemic,

Expressing its concern that the HIV and AIDS pandemic reinforces gender inequalities, that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the pandemic, that they are more easily infected, especially at an earlier age than men and boys, that they bear the disproportionate burden of caring for and supporting people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS and that they become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by the relevant actors, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[19] the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[20] the Beijing Platform for Action[23] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;[18]

2. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010, as set out in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, and reaffirms the resolve to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV and stresses the urgency of significantly scaling up efforts towards meeting these goals;

3. *Further reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in Millennium Development Goal 5, integrating this goal into strategies to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[21] aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV and AIDS and eradicating poverty;

4. *Stresses* the need to significantly increase and coordinate political and financial commitment to address gender equality and equity in national HIV and AIDS responses, and urges Governments to effectively reflect in their national policies, strategies and budgets the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;

5. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and girls, to strengthen their economic independence and their right to property and inheritance, and to protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and to mitigate the impact of the pandemic;

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[23] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

6. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the challenges faced by older women in accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support as well as in caring for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, including orphaned children in vulnerable situations;

7. *Also urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by women and girls living with disabilities, ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

8. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV and AIDS and sexual and reproductive health, and their inclusion in national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches, where they exist, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV and AIDS pandemic and mitigating its impact on the population, which could result in more relevant and cost-effective interventions with greater impact;

9. *Urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that integrate HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and include voluntary counselling and testing, including through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

10. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the situation faced by girls caring for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, who are often forced to drop out of school;

11. *Urges* Governments, in the context of HIV and other sexually transmitted infection prevention programmes, to ensure accessible and affordable procurement of safe and effective prevention commodities, in particular male and female condoms, to ensure that their supply is adequate and secure, and to promote their ongoing research, including that for safe and effective microbicides;

12. *Reminds* Member States to consider that flexibilities in trade-related intellectual property rights can be used by Member States, when necessary, to protect public health and address public health crises;

13. *Urges* Governments to strengthen and implement legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, abuse, early marriage, child and forced marriage, rape, including marital rape, and other forms of sexual violence and coerced sexual activity, battering and trafficking in women and girls, and to ensure that violence against women is addressed as an integral part of the national HIV and AIDS response;

14. *Also urges* Governments, where they have not yet done so, to institute and ensure the enforcement of laws to protect women and girls from early marriage, child and forced marriage and marital rape;

15. *Further urges* Governments to prioritize and expand access to treatment for all people in all settings, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the

prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases and the effective use of and adherence to antiretroviral medication, including through access to clinical and laboratory testing and post-exposure prophylaxis, with the full protection of their human rights, including their reproductive rights and sexual health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration[24] and Platform for Action and other relevant international human rights instruments;

16. *Urges* Governments to promote access to affordable, high-quality, safe and effective drugs, and HIV and maternal health-related pharmaceutical products for women and girls, and to collect data on treatment disaggregated by age, sex, marital status and continuity of care;

17. *Requests* Governments to promote and provide equal and equitable access for all persons, throughout their life cycle, to social services related to health care, including education, clean water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security and health, education programmes and social protection schemes, especially for women and girls living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, including prevention and treatment for opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases;

18. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV and AIDS, including through challenging gender stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard;

19. *Stresses* that women and girls should be empowered to protect themselves against violence and that, in this regard, women have the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

20. *Calls upon* all Governments and the international donor community to integrate a gender perspective in all matters of international assistance and cooperation and to take measures to ensure that resources concomitant with the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls are made available, in particular in funding provided to national HIV and AIDS programmes to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls in the context of the epidemic, to promote economic opportunities for women, including to diminish their financial vulnerability and their risk of exposure to HIV, and to achieve the gender-related goals found, inter alia, in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;

21. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate HIV prevention, voluntary counselling and voluntary testing of HIV into other health services, including sexual and reproductive health, family planning, maternity and tuberculosis services, as well as the provision of services for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections in the mother-to-child transmission services for pregnant women living with HIV;

22. *Encourages* the continued collaboration among the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Global Fund

[24] Ibid., annex I.

to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations in order to continue to scale up efforts to reduce the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, in particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and to seek actively the achievement of results for women and girls, and also encourages the integration of the mainstreaming of a gender perspective throughout their work;

23. *Welcomes* the decision of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to scale up a gender-sensitive response to HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in order to address the vulnerabilities of women and girls to HIV infection;

24. *Requests* the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations agencies responding to the HIV and AIDS pandemic, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to mainstream a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV- and AIDS-related operations, including policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and to ensure that programmes and policies are developed and adequately resourced to address the specific needs of women and girls;

25. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate action on women, girls, gender equality and HIV, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

26. *Recommends* the development and use of gender analysis, the harmonization of data, and the development and refinement of indicators as part of the process to update the core indicators on HIV and AIDS for the reporting system for the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, to help measure women's and girls' inequalities in the context of HIV;

27. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to support national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the context of the "three ones" principles, to enable the production and dissemination of comprehensive and timely information on the gender dimension of the pandemic, including through the collection of data disaggregated by sex, age and marital status, and to raise awareness about the need to address the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV and AIDS;

28. *Encourages* Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, convened by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, to mobilize and support a wide range of national actors, including women's groups and networks of women living with HIV, in order to ensure that national HIV and AIDS programmes are better able to respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls and adolescents;

29. *Welcomes* the call by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2015, and urges Governments to rapidly scale up access to prevention and treatment programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission, to encourage women and girls to participate in those programmes and to provide sustained treatment and care for the mother after pregnancy, including care and support for the family;

30. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes, including awareness-raising programmes, to encourage and enable men, including young men, to adopt safe, non-coercive and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections;

31. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that young men and women have access to information and education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, sex education and services necessary for behavioural change, to enable them to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and reproductive ill health, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

32. *Calls for* enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV and AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including by focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV and AIDS;

33. *Encourages* Governments and all other relevant actors to promote funding, both domestically and externally, and to support and expedite action-oriented research leading to affordable, safe and effective methods controlled by women to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, including microbicides and vaccines and research on strategies that empower women to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and methods of care, support and treatment for women of various ages, and to promote their involvement in all aspects of such research;

34. *Encourages* Governments to increase the provision of resources and facilities to women who find themselves having to provide care and/or economic support for those infected with HIV or affected by the pandemic and to address the challenges faced by the survivors and caregivers, in particular children and older persons, as well as to provide the balanced sharing of the provision of care by both men and women;

35. *Emphasizes* the negative impact of HIV-related stigma, especially for women and girls, in seeking and accessing HIV and AIDS programmes, and urges Governments to develop and implement policies and programmes to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination, to ensure that the dignity, rights and privacy of people living with HIV and affected by AIDS, in particular women and girls, especially in the context of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, are protected;

36. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV, young people and civil society actors, in particular women's organizations, in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and to promote their full involvement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV and AIDS programmes, as well as in creating an enabling environment to combat stigmatization;

37. *Urges* Governments, the donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to prioritize programmes addressing the specific needs of women and girls in HIV response, to ensure resources to support the development of capacities of women's organizations for HIV and AIDS programme development

and implementation, and to streamline funding procedures and requirements that will facilitate resource flows to community-level services;

38. *Also urges* Governments, the donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to ensure that gender equality implications are a key component of research, implementation and evaluation of new prevention methods and that such new prevention methods are part of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention that protects and supports the rights of women and girls;

39. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

40. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in planning for comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

41. *Urges* the international community to complement and supplement, through increased international development assistance, efforts of the developing countries that commit increased national funds to fighting the HIV and AIDS pandemic, especially to address the needs of women and girls around the world, in particular those countries most affected by the HIV and AIDS pandemic, particularly in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Caribbean;

42. *Notes* that the XVIII International AIDS Conference will be held in Vienna in July 2010;

43. *Recommends* that, in the process of the review of the Millennium Development Goals, gender-equality perspectives should be included throughout the deliberations and that attention should be paid to the situation of women and girls living with and affected by HIV and AIDS;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, with an emphasis on accelerated actions taken in regard to women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of women and the girl child.

Resolution 54/3
Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Guided by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 94-96.

Guided also by the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[25] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,[26] as well as relevant international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[27] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[28] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[28] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[29] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[30] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[31] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993, by the World Conference on Human Rights,[32]

Taking duly into account the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted on 20 December 2006 by the General Assembly in resolution 61/177,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, as well as all resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights concerning hostage-taking and General Assembly resolution 61/172 of 19 December 2006,

Recognizing that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

Recalling the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of the civilian population as such,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[33] as well as the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[34] and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[35] including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children, and welcoming the 10-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and General Assembly decision 64/530 on the commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 on women, peace and security, as well as its

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[25] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[26] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.
[27] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[28] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[29] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[30] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[31] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.
[32] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[33] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[34] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
[35] General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

resolutions 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005 and 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

Expressing grave concern at the continuation of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they cause,

Noting that women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, whether international or non-international, are victims of serious violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, that continue to have a negative impact on efforts to put an end to those conflicts and cause suffering to the families of those women and children, and stressing, in this regard, the need to address the issue from a humanitarian perspective, among others,

Emphasizing that all forms of violence in areas of armed conflict committed against the civilian population as such, including taking women and children hostage, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, in particular as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,

Being cognizant that States that are parties to an armed conflict have a responsibility not to take hostage and subsequently imprison women and children in armed conflict and to ensure accountability as regards implementation of relevant mechanisms, policies and laws in order to protect them, bearing in mind that all parties to the conflict must refrain from hostage-taking,

Concerned that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of hostage-taking in different forms and manifestations, inter alia, those committed by terrorists and armed groups, continue to take place and have even increased in many regions of the world,

Recognizing that hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community, in conformity with international humanitarian law and in accordance with international human rights standards, in order to bring such abhorrent practices to an end,

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children", including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children,

1. *Reaffirms* that hostage-taking, wherever and by whomever committed, is an illegal act aimed at the destruction of human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable;

2. *Condemns* all violent acts committed against the civilian population as such, in violation of international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, in particular the immediate release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field;

3. *Also condemns* the consequences of hostage-taking, in particular torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, murder, rape, slavery, and trafficking in women and children;

4. *Urges* States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all necessary measures, in a timely manner, to determine the identity, fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, and to the greatest possible extent, to provide their family members, through appropriate channels, with all relevant information they have on their fate and whereabouts;

5. *Invites*, in this regard, States to adopt a comprehensive approach, including all appropriate legal and practical measures and coordination mechanisms;

6. *Recognizes* the need for the collection, protection and management of information on women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts according to international and national legal norms and standards, and urges States to cooperate with each other and with other appropriate actors working in this area, inter alia, by providing all relevant and appropriate information;

7. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law and to take all necessary measures for the protection of the civilian population as such, including measures to prevent and combat acts of hostage-taking;

8. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe, unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for those women and children, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

9. *Also urges* all parties to an armed conflict to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross in establishing the fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned;

10. *Stresses* both the need to put an end to impunity and the responsibility of all States to prosecute or bring to justice in accordance with international law those responsible for war crimes, including hostage-taking;

11. *Also stresses* the need for addressing the issue of release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, also as a part of peace processes, with reference to all justice and rule of law mechanisms, on the basis of transparency, accountability and public involvement and participation;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of objective, responsible and impartial information, including improved analysis and dissemination of sex-and-age disaggregated data, on hostages, verifiable by relevant international organizations, in facilitating their release, and calls for assistance to those organizations in this regard;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, within the context of the present resolution, the widest possible dissemination of relevant material, in particular material relating to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), within existing resources;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and undertake efforts to facilitate the

immediate release of civilian women and children who have been taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned;

15. *Invites* the special rapporteurs, within their respective mandates, as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, to continue to address the issue of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts and its consequences;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including relevant practical recommendations, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations;

17. *Decides* to consider the question at its fifty-sixth session.

Resolution 54/4
Women's economic empowerment*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the goals, objectives and commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[36] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[37]

Reaffirming also the commitments related to women's economic empowerment contained in the relevant outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling relevant international commitments that contribute to women's economic and social empowerment, made at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including at the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in 1995,[38] the Millennium Summit held in 2000,[39] the 2005 World Summit[40] and at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha in 2008,[41]

Bearing in mind that women's economic empowerment is crucial in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[42]

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 97-102.

[36] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[37] See General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[38] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[39] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[40] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[41] See *Report of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, Doha, Qatar, 29 November-2 December 2008* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 1.

[42] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

Recalling also all relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions pertaining to issues related with women's economic empowerment,

Reaffirming the commitment of States to place people at the centre of development and direct their economies to meet human needs more effectively, and to recognize that empowering people, particularly women, to strengthen their own capacities is a main objective of development and its principal resource,

Expressing deep concern about the increasing feminization of poverty, emphasizing that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty and that the implementation of special measures aimed at empowering women can help to achieve this, and recognizing that women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources, lack of access to education and support services and women's minimal participation in the decision-making process,

Concerned that women's economic empowerment is constrained by gender inequalities and disparities in economic power-sharing, unequal distribution of unremunerated work between women and men, lack of technological and financial support for women's entrepreneurship, unequal access to, and control over, capital, particularly land and credit and access to labour markets, as well as all harmful traditional and customary practices,

Noting that there is increasing recognition that women's economic empowerment is a key factor that contributes to sustainable economic development and to women's full enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development,

Recalling that in its agreed conclusions on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, adopted in 2008,[43] and on eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle, in a globalizing world, adopted in 2002,[44] the Commission on the Status of Women noted the growing body of evidence demonstrating that investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth and that increasing women's economic empowerment is central to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including to the eradication of poverty,

Reaffirming that in order to ensure women's empowerment in the economy and their economic advancement, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as the provision of new and additional resources to the developing countries from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, for the advancement of women and their economic empowerment, will also be required,

Expressing its deep concern over the negative impact of the global economic and financial crisis and of the food crisis and ongoing food insecurity which could hamper progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

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[43] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 7* (E/2008/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[44] Ibid., *2002, Supplement No. 7* (E/2002/27), chap. I, sect. A.

Recalling the importance that recovery measures should take into account the negative impact of the financial and economic crisis on women and men and integrate gender equality concerns in all response measures,

Bearing in mind that in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,[45] Heads of State and Government and high representatives recalled, inter alia, that gender equality and empowerment of women are essential for economic growth, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability and development effectiveness and reiterated the need for gender mainstreaming into the formulation and implementation of development policies, including financing for development policies, and for dedicated resources,

Recalling the Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100), the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) and the Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156) of the International Labour Organization,

Bearing in mind that despite the increase of women's access to economic opportunities, hundreds of millions of women are dependent on subsistence and smallholder agriculture and employment in the informal sector, where they are more likely to have low-paid jobs, with limited or no social protection and deficient protection of their labour rights,

Recognizing that the full integration of women into the formal economy, in particular into economic decision-making, means changing the current gender-based division of labour into new economic structures where women and men enjoy equal treatment, pay and power, including sharing of paid and unpaid work,

Remaining concerned about the lingering negative consequences, including for women's economic empowerment, of some structural adjustment programmes, stemming from inappropriate design and application,

Recognizing the crucial role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating poverty, inter alia, adding value to local agricultural produce,

Underlining the importance of strengthening domestic financial sectors as a source of capital by making them inclusive to women living in poverty, in particular women living in poverty and women living in rural and/or remote areas, thus expanding their access to financial services,

Reiterating that access to microfinance and microcredit and to formal finance services can contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[39] in particular the goals relating to poverty eradication, gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Reaffirming that microfinance, in particular microcredit programmes, has succeeded in generating productive self-employment and has proved to be an effective tool in overcoming poverty, and bearing in mind that microfinance, including microcredit, savings and other financial instruments, have especially benefited women and have contributed in the achievement of their economic empowerment,

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[45] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

Noting that the costs of unequal sharing of responsibilities include weaker labour market attachment for women (forfeited job, shorter working hours, confinement to informal work and lower wages), weaker access to social security benefits, and less time for education/training, leisure, self-care and political activities,

Recognizing that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of societies and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Calls upon* States to incorporate gender perspectives into social and economic policies, including development and poverty eradication strategies and related actions promoting women's economic rights and independence, and to address the extent to which policies, programmes and activities effectively address the needs, priorities and contributions of women and men, with a view to ensuring that the formulation and implementation of relevant strategies contribute to women's economic empowerment;

2. *Also calls upon* States to adopt and apply a systematic approach across all areas and at all levels in order to accelerate women's full participation in economic decision-making at all levels and ensure the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation and evaluation of economic and development policies and social safety net and poverty eradication programmes, as well as to promote and reinforce capacity-building of States and other stakeholders in gender-responsive public management, including, but not limited to, gender budgeting;

3. *Urges* States to develop and implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes aimed at promoting women's economic empowerment, including through enhancing their access to full and productive employment and decent work for all and to equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and at supporting women's technical, managerial and entrepreneurial capacities and initiatives, with the aim of ensuring sustainable and adequate income generation and empowering women as equal partners with men in these fields;

4. *Calls upon* States to undertake legislative and administrative reforms in order to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies;

5. *Also calls upon* States to fulfil their commitments to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and to ensure the equal access of women and girls to education for all, basic services, including primary health care, housing, economic opportunities and decision-making at all levels;

6. *Urges* States and/or, as appropriate, the relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, bearing in mind national priorities, to strengthen education, health and social services and effectively utilize resources to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and ensure women's and girls' rights to education at all levels and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, as

well as quality, affordable and universally accessible health care and services, in particular primary health care;

7. *Calls upon* States to provide adequate safety nets and strengthen State-based and community-based support systems, as an integral part of social policy, in order to enable women living in poverty to withstand adverse economic environments and preserve their livelihood, assets and revenues in times of crisis;

8. *Also calls upon* States to fulfil their obligation to ensure full and equal access to education for girls and women, recognizing that investing in women's education is the key element in achieving social equality, higher productivity and social returns in terms of health, lower infant mortality and the reduced need for high fertility;

9. *Reaffirms* the Dakar Framework for Action on education for all,[46] and commits to ensure by 2015 access to and complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality and to achieve gender equality in education by 2015, and decides to strengthen policies aimed at ensuring full and equal access of women and girls to education at all levels through lifelong learning, including adult and long-distance education and training, as well as to eradicate illiteracy in order to promote women's economic empowerment;

10. *Urges* States:

(a) To continue to strengthen policies relevant for women's economic empowerment aimed at addressing inequality affecting women and girls in access to and achievement in education at all levels, in particular to eliminate inequalities related to age, poverty, geographical location, language, ethnicity, religion and disability, adopting measures to promote non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive education that is free of gender-based stereotypes and broader career choices, scaling up strategies to encourage and support girls' participation in science and technology, promoting educational programmes in which girls are prepared to participate in decision-making at all levels, including in the economic field, and implementing initiatives to translate educational achievements of women into employment opportunities;

(b) To enhance the implementation of policies that also impact on women's economic empowerment related to access to education across the life cycle, use of information and communication technologies in programmes for adult education and vocational training, and eradication of illiteracy;

11. *Encourages* efforts to provide education in humanitarian emergency situations, including to enhance women's empowerment;

12. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the relevant International Labour Organization conventions;

13. *Also calls upon* States to adopt and apply effective measures, including legislative measures, to ensure the application of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for equal work or work of equal value, to promote equality of opportunity and treatment among men and women in respect of

[46] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

employment and occupation, and to enable persons with family responsibilities who are engaged or wish to engage in employment to be able to do so;

14. *Urges* States and/or, as appropriate, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, as well as civil society, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, media and other relevant actors:

(a) To continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance the employability of women and ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work, including through improving access to formal and non-formal education and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining, long-distance education, including in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, with a view to supporting women's economic empowerment in the different stages of their lives;

(b) To promote women's participation in high-level management and in economic decision-making;

(c) To adopt effective measures to promote equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;

(d) To adopt and implement effective measures to promote and protect the rights of women workers, eliminate sex-based discrimination in the workplace, and take action to remove structural and legal barriers as well as stereotypic attitudes and behaviours to women and men at work, addressing, inter alia, gender bias in recruitment; working conditions; remuneration; occupational segregation; harassment; discrimination in access to social protection benefits; women's occupational health and safety; the situation of women working in the informal sector and the need to cover this sector in labour regulations and social protection; unequal career opportunities; the situation of domestic female workers, including migrant women; and the inadequate sharing, by men, of family responsibilities;

(e) To develop or strengthen policies and programmes to support the multiple roles of women in society, while acknowledging the social significance of maternity and motherhood, parenting, the role of parents and legal guardians in the upbringing of children and caring for other family members; such policies and programmes should also promote shared responsibility of parents, women and men and society as a whole;

(f) To take and encourage measures, including, where appropriate, the formulation, promotion and implementation of legal and administrative measures, to facilitate the reconciliation of work and personal and/or family life, such as child and dependant care, parental leave and maternity leave and other leave schemes and flexible working schemes for men and women and, where appropriate, shorter working hours, and design, implement and promote family-friendly policies and services, including affordable, accessible and quality care services for children and other dependents, parental and other leave schemes and campaigns to sensitize public opinion and other relevant actors on equal sharing of employment and family responsibilities between women and men and emphasize men's equal responsibilities with respect to household work;

(g) To measure in quantitative and qualitative terms, unremunerated work that is outside national accounts in order to better reflect its value;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen the incentive role of the public sector as employer in order to develop an environment that effectively affirms and empowers women;

16. *Acknowledges* the vital role that the private sector can play in generating full and productive employment and decent work for women;

17. *Calls upon* States to ensure and strengthen women's access to social protection schemes and/or insurance schemes, throughout the life cycle, including health insurance and pension schemes, giving particular attention to women living in poverty;

18. *Urges* States to adopt appropriate measures to overcome negative impacts of the economic and financial crisis, including on women and girls, and integrate a gender perspective into these measures so that they equally benefit women and men;

19. *Also urges* States to adopt and implement legislation, policies and/or programmes aimed at eliminating the constraints faced by women in accessing formal financial services, including savings, credit, insurance and money transfer services, using alternative non-traditional security arrangements and giving particular attention to the obstacles faced by poor women living in rural and urban areas in obtaining access to those services, including microfinancing, and also to adopt and implement legislation, policies and/or programmes that support savings, credit and lending mechanisms for women;

20. *Calls upon* Member States to take legislative, administrative and financial measures to create a strong enabling environment for all women entrepreneurs and women participating in the labour market, including a sound macroeconomic framework, accountable systems for managing public resources, and a business climate that attracts investment and promotes movement from the informal to the formal sector through, inter alia, competitive markets, enforceable contracts, absence of corruption, regulatory policies that promote public confidence in the market and reduction of barriers to international trade within an appropriate time frame;

21. *Encourages* all relevant economic stakeholders to continue to take gender perspectives into account in the design of loans, grants, projects, programmes and strategies so as to promote women's economic empowerment and equality;

22. *Urges* the international community to actively support national efforts for the promotion of microfinance and microcredit schemes that ensure women's access to credit, self-employment and integration into the economy;

23. *Calls upon* States and encourages, as appropriate, relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors to take measures to develop, finance, implement, monitor and evaluate gender-responsive policies and programmes aimed at promoting women's entrepreneurship, in particular to benefit women living in poverty, including through greater access to formal financial instruments, microfinance, microcredit, cooperatives, technological innovation and transfer of technology, market intelligence, investments, knowledge and skills training, advisory services, access to markets, including through international trade, and facilitation of networking and exchanges;

24. *Expresses its concern* that women entrepreneurs, especially in the early stages of the businesses they found, may find it difficult to sustain their businesses because of, inter alia, a lack of access to markets, and encourages all relevant economic stakeholders to strengthen the competitiveness of women, to ensure their access to national and international markets, with emphasis on low-income women, and to include women entrepreneurs in their supply chains, as a means of channelling continued income to businesses established and operated by women;

25. *Calls upon* sending, transit and receiving States to incorporate gender perspectives in all policies and programmes on migration, promote the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women migrants, combat discrimination, all forms of exploitation, ill-treatment, unsafe working conditions and violence, including sexual violence and trafficking in women and girls, and facilitate family reunification in an expeditious and effective manner, with due regard to applicable laws, as such reunification has a positive effect on the integration of migrants;

26. *Urges* Governments and/or, as appropriate, the relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to ensure that adequate resources are allocated for activities targeting persistent serious obstacles to the economic empowerment of women in situations of armed conflict;

27. *Invites* States and, as appropriate, international organizations, in partnership with cooperatives and cooperative organizations, inter alia, to promote the growth of agricultural cooperatives through women's access to finance, land and property, adoption of sustainable production techniques, investments in rural infrastructure and irrigation, strengthened marketing mechanisms and support for the participation of women in economic activities;

28. *Recognizes* that global advances in information and communication technologies have created significant potential for facilitating women's economic empowerment and that realizing this potential requires efforts to improve development of, and equal access to, technologies that facilitate educational and occupational access and that encourage, support and enhance women's economic empowerment;

29. *Calls upon* States to develop and promote, with the support of, as appropriate, relevant United Nations entities, academic institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors, the production and use of sex and age-disaggregated statistics and academic research on the economic situation of women, including in the area of employment, in order to effectively inform national policies;

30. *Reaffirms* that the international community, while strengthening international cooperation, should emphasize the importance of an open, rule-based, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system that will also ensure the equal access of women to market and technologies and resources at both the national and international levels;

31. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so, in accordance with their commitments, to make concrete efforts towards meeting the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for official

development assistance to the least developed countries, and encourage developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets and, inter alia, to assist them in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women;

32. *Emphasizes* the special importance of timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solutions to the external debt problems of developing countries, since debt financing and relief can contribute to economic growth and development and the empowerment of women;

33. *Urges* States and the international community to further promote international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, for enhancing women's economic empowerment and to continue to share good practices related to women's economic empowerment;

34. *Reiterates* the importance of strengthening coordination, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency in the capacity of the United Nations system to support the efforts of Member States in the implementation of national policies for the achievement of, and addressing underresourcing for, gender equality and the empowerment of women;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Resolution 54/5
Eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[47] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development ("Cairo Programme of Action"),[48] adopted in 1994, and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[49] adopted in 1995, and the outcomes of their review conferences and commitments regarding the reduction of maternal, newborn and child mortality and universal access to reproductive health, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[50] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[51] and recalling other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Reaffirming also the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health, including the targets to reduce by three quarters between

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 103-108.

47 *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

48 *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

49 *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

50 See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

51 See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

1990 and 2015 the maternal mortality ratio and to achieve by 2015 universal access to reproductive health, Millennium Development Goal 4 on reducing child mortality, Millennium Development Goal 3 on promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, and Millennium Development Goal 6 on combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and noting with concern that Millennium Development Goal 5, based on current data, is the least likely of all of the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[52] and the obligations of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[53] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[54] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[55] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[56] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[57] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[57] and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[58]

Recalling also the ministerial declaration of the 2009 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, entitled "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health",[59]

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 11/8 of 17 June 2009[60] on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights, and Commission on Population and Development resolution 2009/1 of 3 April 2009[61] on the contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Taking note of the various regional and international initiatives relating to the reduction of maternal mortality involving representatives of Governments, civil society and the private sector, including the "Addis Call to Urgent Action for Maternal Health",[62] adopted at the High-level Meeting for Maternal Health, held at Addis Ababa on 26 October 2009, during which participants agreed to the Addis Ababa Statement of Commitment, adopted by the International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development on 28 October 2009, as well as the Madang Commitment,[63] adopted at the Eighth Meeting of Ministers of Health for the Pacific Island Countries in July 2009 and the Pacific Policy Framework for

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[52] See General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[53] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[54] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[55] General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.
[56] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.
[57] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[58] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.
[59] See A/64/3, chap. III, sect. E.
[60] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/64/53), chap. III, sect. A.
[61] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 5* (E/2009/25), chap. I, sect. B.
[62] See A/64/725, annex.
[63] Available from http://www.wpro.who.int/internet/resources.ashx/PIC/2009/madang_commitment_2009.pdf.

Achieving Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services and Commodities 2008-2015,

Recognizing the need to continue to raise awareness at the national, regional and international levels about maternal mortality and morbidity,

Recognizing also the role of the United Nations system, including its funds, programmes and agencies, in particular the leading roles of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank, in eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and the work under the annual World Health Assembly agenda item on monitoring the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals, and welcoming the ongoing efforts of United Nations entities to promote gender equality, empowerment of women, development, human rights and peace through, inter alia, the mainstreaming of a gender equality perspective in United Nations activities,

Welcoming the ongoing partnerships among a variety of stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels aimed at addressing the multifaceted determinants of global health and the commitments and initiatives to accelerate progress on the health-related Millennium Development Goals, including those announced at the high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals held at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 2008, and at the corresponding follow-up high-level event held on 23 September 2009,

Expressing deep concern that more than half a million women and adolescent girls die every year from largely preventable complications related to pregnancy or childbirth; that, for every death, the World Health Organization has assessed that an estimated twenty additional women and girls suffer from pregnancy-related and childbirth-related injury, disability, infection and disease, that over 200 million women worldwide lack access to safe, affordable and effective forms of contraception, and that complications from pregnancy and childbirth are one of the leading causes of death for women between the ages of 15 and 19, in particular in many developing countries, and expressing grave concern over the almost nine million children — four million of them newborns — who will die in 2010, chiefly from preventable causes, and that children whose mothers die are ten times more likely to die within two years,

Taking note that, as reported by the World Health Organization,[64] the causes of maternal death, in order of prevalence worldwide, include severe bleeding (haemorrhage), infections, complications due to unsafe abortion, high blood pressure in pregnancy (eclampsia), obstructed labour and other direct causes, accounting for an estimated 80 per cent of maternal mortality worldwide, as well as other indirect causes,

Expressing deep concern that HIV infection significantly increases the risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, so that, in countries with high HIV prevalence, AIDS-related complications are one of the leading causes of maternal mortality,

Acknowledging that failure to prevent maternal mortality and morbidity is among the most significant barriers to the empowerment of women and girls in all

[64] World Health Organization, *The World Health Report 2005: Make Every Mother and Child Count* (Geneva, 2005).

aspects of life, the full enjoyment of their human rights and their ability to reach their full potential,

Reaffirming its commitment to the equal participation of women and men in public and political life as a key element in women's and men's equal participation in eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity as well as in decision-making when defining policies and strategies in that regard,

Reaffirming also that gender equality cannot be achieved without promoting and protecting the right of women to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reaffirming that expanding access to sexual and reproductive health information and health services is essential for achieving the Beijing Platform for Action, the Cairo Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing the need for greater coordination, global cooperation and commitment to achieving universal access to health services for women and children through a primary health-care approach and evidence-based interventions and to reduce maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity, including through the provision of sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning services, in line with the Beijing Platform for Action,[65] and the Cairo Programme of Action,[66]

Recognizing also that the unacceptably high global rates of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity are health, development and human rights challenges and recognizing further that such high rates are directly related to poverty, the presence of persistent gender inequalities, including inequitable and unequal access to adequate health services and facilities, gender-based violence, harmful traditional practices, lack of education, lack of economic opportunity, lack of participation in decision-making and multiple forms of discrimination,

Recognizing further that early pregnancy and early childbearing present a much higher risk of complications during pregnancy and delivery as well as maternal mortality and morbidity and deeply concerned that early childbearing and limited access to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and other maternal morbidities as well as maternal mortality,

Recognizing the need to ensure women's and girls' right to education at all levels, as well as sex education based on full and accurate information in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of girls and boys, and with appropriate direction and guidance,

Reaffirming the commitment to strengthen health systems that deliver equitable health outcomes,

Expressing concern about the slow pace of progress in improving maternal, newborn and child health and the inadequate resources for their health, and noting the growing inequalities between and within Member States, the lack of appreciation

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[65] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, paras. 106-108.

[66] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, paras. 8.19-8.27.

of the impact of maternal, newborn and child health on sustainable socio-economic development, and the continuing need to address gender inequalities,

Stressing the importance of strengthening health systems to better respond to women's health needs in terms of access, comprehensiveness and quality, and underlining the need to address women's health through comprehensive strategies targeting root causes of gender inequality in health care, including unequal and limited access to health services,

1. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community to strongly commit at all levels to eliminate the persistent and unacceptably high global rate of maternal mortality and morbidity;

2. *Urges* government authorities and other leaders at the international, regional, national and local levels to generate the political will, increased resources, commitment, international cooperation and technical assistance urgently required to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity and improve maternal and newborn health;

3. *Calls upon* States to fully and effectively implement the Beijing Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development ("Cairo Programme of Action") and the outcomes of their review conferences, including the commitments relating to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and the promotion and protection of all human rights in this context, and to maximize their efforts to eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity by strengthening comprehensive health services to women and girls, including access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and information as agreed to in the Beijing Platform for Action[65] and the Cairo Programme of Action;[66]

4. *Also calls upon* States to address gender inequalities, violations of the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls, discrimination against women and girls, poverty and harmful traditional practices that contribute to the unacceptably high and persistent global rate of maternal mortality and morbidity, bearing in mind the impact of multiple forms of discrimination; to guarantee to all women access to the highest attainable standard of health; and to ensure women's full participation in decision-making at local, national and international levels regarding health care;

5. *Encourages* Member States to develop comprehensive strategies to target root causes of gender inequality in health care and put into practice policies to ensure women's access to affordable and adequate health services by strengthening health systems to better respond to women's needs;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to integrate HIV/AIDS interventions into programmes for primary health care, sexual and reproductive health, and mother and child health, including strengthening efforts to eliminate the mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and encourages the international community, especially the Global Fund to Combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to support these efforts;

7. *Urges* Member States, with the help of the United Nations system and the international community where needed, to strengthen health systems for women and girls in order to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, through health financing, the health workforce, the procurement and distribution of medicines, vaccines, commodities and equipment, infrastructure, information systems, service delivery and political will in leadership and governance, bearing in mind a need for gender mainstreaming;

8. *Also urges* Member States to strengthen measures, including increased financial resources, as necessary, to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health;

9. *Acknowledges* the critical role of men and boys and the need to share responsibilities between women and men in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity and promoting the health of women and girls, and urges Member States, the United Nations and civil society to include in their development priorities programmes that support the critical role of men in supporting women's access to safe conditions for pregnancy and childbirth, contributing to family planning, preventing sexually transmitted infections and HIV, and ending violence against women and girls;

10. *Encourages* Member States, including donor countries, and the international community to increase their efforts to eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity through effective health interventions and health system strengthening, promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls, and the empowerment of women and girls, and to give renewed emphasis to maternal mortality and morbidity initiatives in their development partnerships and cooperation arrangements, by honouring existing commitments and considering new commitments in areas such as humanitarian, emergency and crisis situations, and by coordinating at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in September 2010 to strengthen planning and accountability for greatly accelerated progress on reducing maternal mortality and morbidity;

11. *Urges* States to elaborate and implement comprehensive gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues in order to eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity;

12. *Recognizes* the interlinkages among poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health services, early childbearing and gender discrimination as root causes of maternal mortality and morbidity, and that poverty remains a major social risk factor, that the eradication of poverty contributes to meeting the needs and protecting and promoting the rights of women and girls and that continued urgent national and international action is required to eliminate it;

13. *Encourages* Member States, in particular those with persistent high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, to maximize the efficient use of existing resources for maternal health, to meet commitments such as those included in the Abuja Declaration to reduce poverty, to increase budgetary allocations towards health and development programmes that would eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, including prevention and treatment of haemorrhage, obstructed labour, obstetric fistula, infections and reproductive cancers, to eliminate financial barriers, and to promote the health, including sexual and reproductive health, of women and girls;

14. *Urges* Member States, the international community, civil society, including women's and youth organizations, and the private sector to strengthen partnerships and international cooperation to eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity;

15. *Encourages* States to collect data disaggregated by sex and age on all factors contributing to maternal mortality and morbidity, and on other categories

needed for monitoring in a timely fashion progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5, and to share such data with the United Nations system for better monitoring of progress towards the achievement of Goal 5 and its targets;

16. *Notes with appreciation* the work done by the United Nations on Millennium Development Goal indicators, in particular those for Millennium Development Goal 5, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to expand the knowledge base, including the United Nations website on the progress made towards the achievement of the Goals, and encourages relevant United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies and offices, as feasible, to prepare a compendium of best practices of Member States, United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, on eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, including through the empowerment of women and girls, the elimination of gender discrimination and gender inequalities, and promotion of the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls;

17. *Decides* to hold, at its fifty-fifth session, an expert panel discussion on the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and the empowerment of women, including oral briefings by and an interactive discussion with the relevant United Nations funds and programmes, agencies and offices, including the World Bank, as well as representatives of the private sector and civil society, such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the Global Fund to Combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session, in consultation with Member States, international organizations and all other relevant stakeholders, taking into account Human Rights Council resolution 11/8 of 17 June 2009 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, on actions to strengthen linkages among programmes, initiatives and activities throughout the United Nations system for gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, protection of all of their human rights and elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity.

Resolution 54/6
Strengthening the institutional arrangements of the United Nations for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women by consolidating the four existing offices into a composite entity*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recognizing the significant role of the United Nations system in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide,

Welcomes General Assembly resolution 63/311 of 14 September 2009, in particular the provisions on strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women by consolidating the four existing offices into a composite entity led by an Under-Secretary-General, and looks forward to its full implementation,

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 109-114.

Resolution 54/7
Ending female genital mutilation*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 58/156 of 22 December 2003 and 60/141 of 16 December 2005, Commission on the Status of Women resolution 51/2 of 9 March 2007 and 52/2 of 7 March 2008 and all other relevant resolutions, as well as all relevant agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Welcoming the launch of the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", as well as the launch during the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women of the database of the Secretary-General on violence against women,

Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child[67] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[68] together with their Optional Protocols, constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls,

Reaffirming also the Beijing Declaration[69] and Platform for Action,[70] the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[71] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[72] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[73] and their five- and ten-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[74] the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the 2005 World Summit,[75] and the agreed conclusions on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-first session,[76]

Recalling the entry into force on 25 November 2005 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights[77] on the Rights of Women of Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which contains, inter alia, undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation and marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment and ending of female genital mutilation,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 115-118.

[67] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[68] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[69] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[70] Ibid., annex II.

[71] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[72] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[73] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[74] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[75] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[76] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 7* (E/2007/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[77] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1520, No. 26363.

Recalling also general recommendation No. 14, concerning female circumcision, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its ninth session,[78] paragraphs 11, 20 and 24 (l) of general recommendation No. 19, concerning violence against women, adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session,[79] and paragraphs 15 (d) and 18 of general recommendation No. 24, concerning article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on women and health, adopted by the Committee at its twentieth session,[80] and taking note of paragraphs 21, 35 and 51 of general comment No. 14 concerning article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[81] adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its twenty-second session,[82]

Recognizing that female genital mutilation violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls,

Recognizing also that female genital mutilation is an irreparable, irreversible abuse that affects one hundred to one hundred and forty million women and girls alive today, and that each year a further three million girls are at risk of undergoing the procedure,

Reaffirming that harmful traditional or customary practices, including female genital mutilation, constitute a serious threat to the health of women and girls, including their psychological, sexual and reproductive health, which can increase their vulnerability to HIV and may have adverse obstetric and prenatal outcomes as well as fatal consequences, and that the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved only as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society, including men, women and girls,

Recognizing that negative discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and behaviours have direct implications for the status and treatment of women and girls and that such negative stereotypes impede the implementation of legislative and normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on ending female genital mutilation and the recommendations contained therein,[83]

Also welcoming the in-depth study of the Secretary-General on all forms of violence against women[84] and the report of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children,[85] and taking note of the recommendations contained therein,

Further welcoming the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children,

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[78] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/45/38), chap. IV.

[79] Ibid., *Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/47/38), chap. I.

[80] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/54/38), chap. I.

[81] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[82] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 2* (E/2001/22), annex IV.

[83] E/CN.6/2010/6.

[84] A/61/122 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

[85] A/62/209.

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition and physical and mental health care, in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys, and in their often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices, such as female infanticide, rape, incest, early marriage, forced marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

Concerned about evidence of increased carrying out of female genital mutilation by medical personnel in all regions in which it is practised,

Welcoming the call for Africa to be free of female genital mutilation, pledged at the African Union second Pan-African Forum on Children: midterm review, held in Cairo from 29 October to 2 November 2007, as well as the adoption of the call for accelerated action on the implementation of the Plan of Action towards Africa Fit for Children (2008-2012),[86]

Recognizing that strong leadership is required to make progress in eliminating female genital mutilation and that a multidisciplinary, comprehensive, coordinated and coherent approach at all levels towards achieving abandonment of female genital mutilation worldwide is required, and welcoming the fact that such an approach is at the core of the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund joint programme to accelerate the abandonment of female genital mutilation,

1. *Stresses* that the empowerment of women and girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, and calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child[67] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[68] as well as their commitments to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[87] the Beijing Platform for Action,[70] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[71] and of the special session of the General Assembly on children[88] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;[72]

2. *Emphasizes* that awareness-raising, community mobilization, education and training are needed to ensure that all key actors, Government officials, including law enforcement and judicial personnel, immigration officials, health-care providers, religious and community leaders, teachers, employers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, families and communities, work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices that negatively affect girls;

3. *Calls upon* States to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes, to mobilize girls and boys to take an active part in developing preventive and elimination programmes to address harmful traditional practices,

[86] A/62/653, annex.
[87] General Assembly resolution 48/104.
[88] General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

especially female genital mutilation, and to engage communities and religious leaders, educational institutions, the media and families and provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end those practices;

4. *Urges* States to condemn all harmful traditional practices, in particular all types of female genital mutilation, whether committed within or outside a medical institution;

5. *Calls upon* States to strengthen the level of education for women and girls and the capacity of health-care systems to meet their needs in line with the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as this is critical for empowering them and their communities to end female genital mutilation;

6. *Urges* States to take all necessary measures, including enacting and enforcing legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation and to protect girls and women from this form of violence, and to end impunity;

7. *Also urges* States to complement punitive measures with awareness-raising and educational activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the eradication of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, and to protect and support women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilation and those at risk;

8. *Calls upon* States to ensure that national action plans and strategies on elimination of female genital mutilation are comprehensive and multidisciplinary in scope, and incorporate clear targets and indicators for effective national monitoring, impact assessment and coordination;

9. *Urges* States to take, within the general framework of integration policies and in consultation with affected communities, effective and specific targeted measures for refugee women and women migrants and their communities, in order to protect girl children from female genital mutilation, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence;

10. *Also urges* States to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes by, as appropriate, reviewing and revising school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilation, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls into educational and training curricula at all levels;

11. *Further urges* States to provide education and training on the rights of women and girls to families, community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of women and girls, such as all levels of health-care providers, social workers, police officers, legal and judicial personnel and prosecutors, in order to increase awareness and commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls and appropriate responses to rights violations with regard to female genital mutilation;

12. *Urges* States to ensure the national implementation of international and regional commitments and obligations undertaken as States parties or as signatories to various international instruments protecting the full enjoyment of all human

rights and fundamental freedoms of girls and women, as well as their translation and wide distribution to the population and the judiciary;

13. *Also urges* States to review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs, in particular female genital mutilation, that discriminate against women and girls or have a discriminatory impact on women and girls and to ensure that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

14. *Further urges* States to develop social and psychological support services and care and to take measures to improve health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to assist women and girls who are subjected to female genital mutilation;

15. *Calls upon* States to develop policies, protocols and rules to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at the national and local levels to monitor adherence to and implementation of these legislative frameworks;

16. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of age-disaggregated data on all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including on female genital mutilation, and to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress towards its elimination;

17. *Urges* States to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of legislation and action plans aimed at abandoning female genital mutilation;

18. *Calls upon* States to develop, support and implement comprehensive and integrated strategies for the prevention of female genital mutilation, including the training of social workers, medical personnel, religious and community leaders and other relevant professionals and ensuring that they provide competent, supportive services and care to girls and women who are at risk and to girls and women who have undergone female genital mutilation and compelling them to report to the appropriate authorities cases in which they believe girls or women are at risk;

19. *Also calls upon* States to support, as part of a comprehensive approach towards the elimination of female genital mutilation, programmes related to an alternative livelihood for traditional practitioners of female genital mutilation;

20. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources, targeted, innovative programmes and to disseminate best practices that address the needs and priorities of girls in vulnerable situations, such as that of female genital mutilation, who have difficulty accessing services and programmes and, in this regard, welcomes the commitment of ten United Nations agencies in their joint statement of 27 February 2008 to continue working towards the elimination of female genital mutilation by, inter alia, providing technical and financial assistance to achieve this goal and further welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund joint programme to accelerate the abandonment of female genital mutilation;

21. *Stresses* that some progress has been made in combating female genital mutilation in a number of countries and that a common coordinated approach that promotes positive social change at the community, national, regional and international levels could lead to female genital mutilation being abandoned within a generation, with some of the main achievements being obtained by 2015, in line with the Millennium Development Goals;

22. *Encourages* all decision makers, at all levels, with responsibilities for policy, legislation, programmes and allocation of public resources to play leadership roles in eliminating female genital mutilation;

23. *Encourages* men and boys to continue to take positive initiatives and to work in partnership with women and girls to combat violence and discriminatory practices against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls against female genital mutilation in their country programmes, as appropriate, and in accordance with national priorities, in order to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, using information provided by Member States and verifiable information provided by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and by non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of women and girls.

Decision 54/101
Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women

At its 20th meeting, on 12 March 2010, the Commission decided to transmit the following summaries of the discussions held by the high-level round table and panels convened during its fifty-fourth session to the Economic and Social Council as input to its annual ministerial review in 2010.

Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals

1. At its 4th meeting, on 1 March 2010, the Commission on the Status of Women held a high-level round table on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

The interactive high-level round table focused on the sharing of national experiences, lessons learned and good practices. A discussion guide submitted by the Bureau (E/CN.6/2010/3) provided the framework for the interactive dialogue.

2. The high-level round table was organized in two parallel sessions to allow for interaction among the large number of participants. The sessions were chaired, respectively, by the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, Garen Nazarian, and the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, Cesare Maria Ragaglini. Two keynote speakers opened the discussion: Caren Grown, Economist-in-Residence, American University, Washington, D.C., and Lydia Alpízar Durán, Executive Director, Association for Women's Rights in Development. Representatives of Member States exchanged information on the progress made in the implementation of the Platform for Action in their countries and made proposals for future action. Invited representatives of United Nations entities (United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and non-governmental organizations (Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange and International Indigenous Women's Forum) responded and contributed to the interactive dialogue.

3. The full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Gender equality and empowerment of women is both a key development goal and an important means for achieving all of the Millennium Development Goals. While Goal 3 and Goal 5 are gender-specific, there are clear gender equality dimensions in all of the Goals. Progress has been made, but it has been slow and uneven. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to the full implementation of the Platform for Action and achievement of all of the Millennium Development Goals. Attention was drawn to the need to further strengthen linkages between the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Gender perspectives need to be more clearly articulated and addressed in strategies to achieve all of the Goals at the national and local levels. There is a need to develop better mechanisms and tools for ensuring the accountability of States and other stakeholders for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women in all sectors.

4. The annual ministerial review held by the Economic and Social Council and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to review the progress made in the achievement of all of the Millennium Development Goals, to be convened in September 2010, provide an important opportunity to reaffirm the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of women for the achievement of all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

5. Education plays a critical role in the empowerment of women and girls. Good practices, such as the abolishment of school fees, have resulted in steady advances towards meeting international targets for improving girls' access to education, particularly at the primary level. However, progress remains uneven between and within regions and countries. Secondary and university education remains crucial for expanding opportunities for women and girls. Non-formal

education, including vocational programmes, is an important complement to formal education. Participants emphasized the need to ensure that the educational gains of women and girls translate into better employment opportunities.

6. The right to bodily integrity, including sexual and reproductive health, is fundamental to gender equality and women's human rights. Women continue to face preventable health challenges. Even though the maternal mortality rate in some countries has decreased, progress has been limited in regard to reproductive health. Achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5, on improving maternal health, continues to fall behind and the area urgently requires increased investment. Every day, at least 1,500 women and adolescent girls die of complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Almost all maternal deaths could be prevented through interventions such as safe motherhood programmes, free maternal health care, recruitment of competent birth attendants and emergency obstetric care. Women must be able to determine for themselves the spacing and the number of their children. Well-functioning health systems are critical for addressing the specific health needs of women and girls. During the past decade, funding for women's health remained stagnant. It is estimated that US$ 24 billion per year is needed to significantly decrease maternal deaths, an amount that is equivalent to six days of global military spending.

7. Pregnancy rates remain high for adolescent girls owing to teenage pregnancies, as well as the practice of early and child marriages in some countries. National laws are needed to prevent child marriage, together with other measures, including marriage registration systems, incentive schemes to keep girls in school and programmes to mobilize communities.

8. Within the context of Millennium Development Goal 6, the feminization of HIV and AIDS continues to cause great concern. Young women are more susceptible to HIV infection and in many countries they have a higher HIV prevalence rate than men. Measures are needed to ensure women's access to prevention, treatment and care. Other key interventions include sex education for girls and boys and behavioural change programmes.

9. Violence against women is an obstacle to the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and carries great economic costs and personal suffering. The number of international and national initiatives to address violence against women has increased as many countries strengthen laws, policies and institutions to end violence against women. Participants commended the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" in increasing momentum for efforts to address violence against women. Action is needed to ensure that interventions to prevent and eliminate violence against women are comprehensive, fully implemented and monitored, and sustainable across all sectors, including health, education and employment.

10. Women's economic empowerment is central to the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Gender equality perspectives have, however, been largely ignored in the formulation of macroeconomic policies, which have differential impacts on women and men. A shift in the current macroeconomic policy framework and

economic structures is needed to ensure women's equal access to and control over economic resources. Systematic attention should be paid to the priorities and needs of women and girls in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of economic policies.

11. Legislation and policies have been adopted to increase women's ownership of productive assets. Implementation, however, remains inadequate in many countries owing to sociocultural norms and women's lack of knowledge of their rights. While microcredit remains an important poverty reduction strategy, it has not been a tool sufficient for women's economic empowerment.

12. While financial and economic crises have gender-specific impacts and place a disproportionate burden on women, in particular poor women, they also present opportunities to change strategies and actions. Responses to the financial and economic crisis, including stimulus packages, need to take into account the needs and priorities of women and girls in order to ensure that the gains made in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment are not reversed.

13. Women's access to the labour market and decent work is critical. Many countries have taken legislative and policy measures to address discrimination against women in the labour market. In recent years, women's access to employment opportunities has increased. However, women continue to be concentrated in vulnerable and low-paid jobs with little security. Occupational segregation and gender wage gaps persist in all parts of the world. Unequal sharing of unpaid work, including caregiving, between women and men constrains the ability of women to fully participate in the labour market.

14. Promising practices to increase women's participation in the labour market and support the redistribution of unpaid work between women and men include parental leave policies for both women and men. Investment in infrastructure, such as energy, water and sanitation, childcare facilities and transportation systems, can reduce women's time burdens, leading to increased opportunity to participate in the labour market. It is also important to ensure that women have access to newly created jobs, such as green jobs.

15. In many countries, social protection measures such as unemployment insurance schemes, universal health coverage and social pensions, have played critical roles in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and realizing poverty reduction, economic growth and development. Good and promising practices also include the extension of social security coverage to groups that have traditionally been excluded or marginalized, including domestic workers. Basic social security for all would contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as would the establishment of a global social protection floor.

16. Wars, natural disasters and related crisis situations have profoundly different impacts on women and girls. All forms of gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence, may be exacerbated and access to health care, education and livelihood severely affected. Effective responses require that such differences be taken into account in needs assessments and planning in the aftermath of an armed conflict or crisis. They also require the equal

participation and inclusion of women in decision-making. Participants noted the inadequate recognition of, and financing for, women's needs in post-conflict and crisis situations.

17. The tenth anniversary on 31 October 2010 of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security provides an important opportunity to examine ways to further enhance implementation of, and accountability for, global commitments linked to women, peace and security.

18. Patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society continue to reinforce inequality. Discriminatory customs and traditions undermine progress in many areas, including women's access to resources. Participants noted the importance of innovative ways to engage community leaders in efforts to eliminate practices and customs that discriminate against women. In the design, planning and monitoring of laws, policies and programmes to achieve gender equality, it is important to address fully the multiple forms of discrimination and marginalization that particular groups of women continue to face, in particular rural, indigenous and older women, women belonging to ethnic minorities and women with disabilities.

19. Progress still cannot be measured sufficiently in several of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals because of limited or non-existent data. Participants recognized that, despite efforts to improve the collection of data disaggregated by sex and age and the development of gender-sensitive indicators, many gaps remain. Attention was drawn to the need for increased investment in data collection and analysis.

20. While participants recognized that gender equality makes good economic sense, inadequate resources have been allocated to the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. Gender-responsive budgets are an important tool for ensuring the mobilization and expenditure of public resources, and for holding Governments accountable for their policy commitments on gender equality. Tax revenues can be redirected towards social programmes, such as health and education, that lead to positive gender equality outcomes and stimulate economic growth and development. Predictable and sustainable donor support remains a necessary component for the effective implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

21. Consultative processes, solid partnerships and collaboration among different stakeholders, including line ministries, parliamentarians, the judiciary, civil society, the private sector and the media, are critical to achieving gender equality. Participants highlighted good practices involving collaboration among national machineries for gender equality, line ministries and civil society, resulting in improved implementation and monitoring of gender equality laws and policies.

22. Participants noted the role of the proposed new composite gender equality entity in the effective implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The new entity should

champion a stronger role and voice for women in global governance and policymaking. Such an entity should have a strong operational capacity at the country level, significant resources and be headed by a leader with political stature. It should strengthen accountability in the United Nations for gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment, and significantly enhance the Organization's ability to support countries in implementing gender equality commitments.

23. Participants recommended a range of actions to implement fully the Beijing Platform for Action and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the following:

(a) Prioritize gender equality and empowerment of women in national policies, strategies, programmes and actions, based on the Platform for Action, for the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Strengthen partnerships among different stakeholders to ensure better links among existing policies, plans and strategies for the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) Review, amend and abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women, in accordance with international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Labour Organization Conventions;

(d) Strengthen the capacity of national mechanisms for gender equality to participate effectively in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of all policies, programmes and strategies, as well as in the collection and analysis of data;

(e) Integrate in future national censuses and household surveys questions that would provide for better data disaggregated by sex, age and other variables;

(f) Put in place comprehensive legal and policy frameworks to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(g) Ensure that economic stimulus packages, including public job creation programmes, investments for technological upgrading and green energy, are gender-sensitive and create jobs for women;

(h) Expand social protection measures and eliminate inequalities between women and men in access to coverage and explore opportunities for establishing a global social protection floor;

(i) Carry out gender-sensitive analysis of revenues and expenditures in all policy areas and take into account the review and evaluation results in budget planning, allocation and revenue-raising;

(j) Strengthen the focus and impact of development assistance, specifically targeting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

Linkages between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

1. On 4 March 2010, the Commission on the Status of Women convened an interactive expert panel on the theme "Linkages between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals". The session was moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, Takashi Ashiki. The panellists were: Eva Rathgeber, University of Ottawa/Carleton University; Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Resident Coordinator, Albania, Gülden Türköz-Cosslett; and Zo Randriamaro, Training Coordinator, Development Alternatives for Women in a New Era. An issues paper prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat provided the framework for the discussion.

2. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action provide the global agenda for women's human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women. In recent years, understanding of the value of investing in gender equality and women's empowerment to achieve internationally agreed development goals has clearly emerged. It has also been confirmed that the Platform for Action provides comprehensive guidance for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in a gender-responsive manner. However, gender equality perspectives are not well reflected in the current formulation of many of the Millennium Development Goals and their targets and indicators, and are often not explicitly integrated in strategies and plans to achieve the Goals. There is insufficient coherence between efforts to implement the Platform for Action and the strategies and actions to achieve the Goals, and this lack of coherence is a contributing factor in the uneven and slow performance towards realizing many of the Goals. There is therefore a need for increased attention to be paid to lessons learned and to promising practices in implementing the Platform for Action in different country contexts. Five years before the target date for achieving the Goals, lessons learned from the implementation of the Platform for Action could help to address gaps, adjust policy and identify concrete actions for accelerating progress.

3. Accountability for gender equality and the empowerment of women requires strengthening. In this regard, international human rights standards and instruments and related monitoring and review processes are especially pertinent, and greater efforts are necessary to overcome gaps and challenges in complying with obligations for equality and non-discrimination at the national level. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women has been, and remains, central to the practical realization of the gender equality agenda and the rights of women. Other international human rights instruments, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Labour Organization conventions likewise provide guidance in ensuring economic and social rights for women and should serve as the basis for formulating relevant policies and strategies.

4. A key lesson that has emerged from the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action is the role of an enabling environment in the promotion of gender equality. This environment should in particular include gender-

sensitive policies and laws, strong national mechanisms for gender equality and dedicated resources. The importance of such an environment has been demonstrated by the growing number of countries that have implemented stronger policy frameworks, national action plans, and better legislation to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. Positive results have been achieved through changes in laws and customs that are discriminatory to women; the establishment of quotas and targets and introduction of other temporary special measures for women's participation in decision-making; and the development of comprehensive strategies and awareness-raising campaigns to address violence against women. Strong and sustained political will has been instrumental in promoting participation of women in decision-making and accelerating the access of girls to education, and is essential in closing the gap between gender equality commitments and their effective implementation. The gender mainstreaming strategy remains pivotal for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Gender analysis is a key tool for developing better policies and programmatic responses to global and local development challenges.

5. United Nations support at the national level, in terms of lessons learned and good practices, could provide insights for enhancing the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action as a means of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The example of Albania, which is one of eight pilot countries included in the United Nations "Delivering as One" programme, demonstrates how inclusive processes have significantly strengthened Government and civil society ownership in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and how concrete results for women have been achieved. These results include the first-ever national strategy on gender equality and eradication of domestic violence (2007-2010), the introduction of a quota in the electoral code and a 50 per cent increase in the financial resources allocated to combat violence against women.

6. While important advances for women have been achieved globally, the recent economic and financial crisis and the challenge of climate change have had an adverse impact on progress and have also led to significant setbacks in achieving several of the Millennium Development Goals, including those related to poverty and hunger, health and decent work. These experiences should lead to a reorientation towards more people-centred policy frameworks that would strengthen the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and accelerate the achievement of the Goals. Since the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment is a shared responsibility, greater efforts are needed to support developing countries in achieving the internationally agreed gender equality goals and commitments, including by means of financial and technical assistance.

7. Although many development and poverty reduction strategies continue to respond inadequately to the needs and concerns of women and girls, increasing efforts are being made to put in place gender-responsive national development policies. Development cooperation efforts should increasingly integrate gender equality perspectives. A range of critical interventions and actions is available and should be undertaken to address poverty among women and to support their economic empowerment, inter alia: making full employment and the

generation of decent work the primary goal of macroeconomic policies; ensuring women's control over and equal access to economic and financial resources; ensuring universal access to affordable food; and addressing past policy neglect in relation to the agricultural sector, in particular subsistence farming where women farmers are concentrated. Actions should also be taken to ensure the development and financing of universal and gender-sensitive social protection and insurance systems, and to facilitate the reconciliation of paid and unpaid work, including through improved public provisioning of adequate support mechanisms and services. The specific needs and priorities of women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination and marginalization require enhanced attention.

8. The very limited progress made in improving maternal health, in particular maternal mortality, is an issue of great concern. Almost all maternal deaths can be prevented through effective interventions and increased investment. A number of reliable strategies and actions have been identified that give greater priority to, and achieve the desired results in, reducing maternal mortality and improving maternal health, such as increased access to health services, skilled health professionals and birth attendants, the promotion of hospital delivery, and better transport to and from hospitals. In the light of the increase in adolescent pregnancies, the unmet health needs of young women require increased attention, including access to quality sexual and health services and counselling, and to sexual education for both young women and men.

9. Participatory processes involving a range of stakeholders can result in better policies, planning and budgets for gender equality and women's empowerment, and in increased ownership and outcomes at the national level. Collaboration, partnerships and cooperation among all stakeholders, including civil society and women's organizations, should therefore be enhanced. Since women at the grass-roots level often do not benefit from large-scale development initiatives, it is necessary to identify and put in place mechanisms to ensure that women's voices are heard in decision-making processes and programme development. Social dialogue is another key aspect for promoting equal opportunities for women and men.

10. The availability of credible and reliable data and the development of gender-sensitive indicators, as well as tools such as scorecards, peer reviews and gender auditing, can also contribute to strengthening accountability for implementation, including through better monitoring and evaluation of actions taken. Efforts to strengthen national capacity to collect and analyse sex- and age-disaggregated data and to develop gender-sensitive indicators should be enhanced. National censuses provide an opportunity to expand the availability of such data, and various surveys, such as those of health, domestic violence and time-use, also contribute towards increasing the availability of data for enhanced policy development. Gender-responsive budgeting is increasingly recognized as an important tool for gender mainstreaming and for ensuring the mobilization and expenditure of public resources for the promotion of gender equality, and for enhancing overall transparency and accountability.

11. Civil society organizations and the media continue to play an important role in holding Governments accountable for commitments made in regard to

gender equality and the empowerment of women. They play a key role in keeping the population informed about the level of progress — or lack thereof — made by their Governments in the implementation of gender equality commitments.

12. The new composite gender equality entity of the United Nations has a critical role to play in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, inter alia, promoting greater coherence and significantly enhancing the Organization's ability to support Member States in the realization of gender equality commitments. The composite entity should be equipped with adequate human and financial resources to effectively carry out its mandate.

13. The high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to review progress made in the achievement of all of the Millennium Development Goals, scheduled to be held in September 2010, presents an important opportunity to renew existing commitments to gender equality, galvanize coordinated action among all stakeholders and elicit the necessary resources to ensure the achievement of the Goals by 2015. Gender equality and the empowerment of women should not be confined to Goal 3 but should be considered for all of the Millennium Development Goals, in terms of both analysis and outcomes. In the context of the reviews of the Goals under way at the national level, opportunities should be sought for including sex-disaggregated data and analysis and for mainstreaming gender equality perspectives in national Millennium Development Goal reports. Introducing specific national targets and indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women is another means of giving greater visibility to the gender dimensions of all of the Goals.

Women's economic empowerment in the context of the global economic and financial crisis

1. On 8 March 2010, the Commission on the Status of Women held an interactive panel discussion on women's economic empowerment in the context of the global economic and financial crisis. The Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, Leysa Sow, moderated the discussion. The panellists were: Alma Espino, Economist, University of the Republic, Uruguay; Mona Khalaf, Economist and independent consultant on gender and development; and Rania Antonopoulos, Director of the Gender Equality and Economy Programme, Levy Institute, New York.

2. It is increasingly acknowledged that women's economic empowerment is necessary for equitable and sustainable economic growth and development. Despite the considerable progress made in regard to many aspects of women's economic empowerment through education and employment, deeply entrenched gender inequality persists as a result of discriminatory norms and practices. Even when equal opportunities are provided for women and men, the outcomes may be different. The promotion of gender equality in the areas of education and health, for example, does not necessarily lead to equitable outcomes for women and men in the labour market.

3. Women's participation in the labour market is essential for their economic empowerment. In recent years, women's access to the labour market has increased, but there are ongoing concerns about their low wages,

vulnerable employment, limited job stability and lack of social protection. Gender wage gaps and occupational segregation persist, and women are overrepresented in part-time work. The application of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value is critical for the promotion of decent work for women. A range of measures have enhanced women's access to and participation in the labour market, including employment acts that promote equal opportunities for women, strengthened labour standards, guaranteed social security, tax credits to encourage women's employment, allowances for childcare, work programmes and increased resources for job training.

4. In many countries, the increased participation of women in the labour market has not been accompanied by increased participation of men in unpaid work. Women, in particular those in developing countries, have to spend too many hours on domestic work, preventing them from participating in societal or development activities. Macrolevel policies continue to neglect the existing inequalities in the gender distribution of paid and unpaid work, to the detriment of women. Primary areas of policy intervention have focused on reducing the burden of unpaid work, including through the reconciliation of work and family responsibilities, the provision of services and investment in public infrastructure. Time-use surveys undertaken in a number of countries have shown how women and men allocate their time between paid and unpaid work. The value and cost of unpaid work should be recognized and valued by all stakeholders, including government and the private sector.

5. A large number of women remain concentrated in the informal sector. In times of crisis, women's participation in the labour market tends to increase, particularly in very precarious, poorly paid jobs with deteriorating conditions, in order to compensate for the impact of men's unemployment on the household. Such jobs are often not covered by labour legislation or social protection. Efforts are therefore necessary to guarantee social protection to women in both the formal and informal sectors.

6. Due to the existence of gender inequalities in the intra-household distribution of resources, an increase in women's income is not sufficient for their empowerment. A holistic approach to women's empowerment, which focuses on economic, social and political dimensions, is needed. While microcredit continues to be an important tool for poverty reduction in many countries, it should not be considered a panacea for women's economic empowerment. Women need access to formal financial services, including credit, savings and insurance. Access to education, training, technology and markets are also needed for women's economic empowerment. Particular attention should be paid to matching women's fields of specialization with labour market needs, including by means of vocational training, particularly in non-traditional skills, and training in new technologies.

7. Access to land and housing is vital to women's livelihood and economic independence. Gender inequality in access to land, for example, continues to prevail due to discriminatory inheritance laws and traditional norms and practices. Land reform efforts can be instrumental in guaranteeing women's right to land, and gender-sensitive land registration processes should be expanded. Even when women are legally entitled to land, however, they often cede it to their male relatives as land is traditionally transferred through

patrilineal lines. Priority should be given to enhancing women's knowledge of their rights and enforcing legislation and policies that will ensure their equal access to and control over economic resources.

8. The current global financial and economic crisis poses a challenge to progress in gender equality in many areas. Evidence from some countries suggests that while more men may become unemployed as a result of economic crisis, unemployment among women is more persistent. Certain groups of women, such as migrant women and domestic workers, are especially vulnerable during times of economic downturn. The diminished flow of remittances negatively impacts households in countries of origin. Economic hardship and lack of jobs can also mean that women are more vulnerable to trafficking.

9. The financial crisis is a product of the deregulated financial sector which focused on profit maximization at the expense of people. The emphasis on low inflation and fiscal balance has not delivered strong and sustained economic growth. Neglect of domestic demand and dependence on exports has made developing countries vulnerable to market fluctuations and created an environment that has not been conducive to women's economic empowerment. The financial and economic crisis presents an opportunity to implement and strengthen gender-sensitive policies, programmes and strategies. Economic policies and planning processes should pay systematic attention to the priorities and needs of women and girls with a view to promoting the equitable distribution of resources. Policies should focus on employment creation and pro-poor growth that benefits all women and men. Women should be seen as agents of change in the response to the crisis.

10. Expansionary fiscal policies can alleviate the negative impacts of the financial and economic crisis on both women and men. Fiscal policies should prioritize investment in development, education, health and infrastructure. The financial and economic crisis should not be used as an excuse to reduce budget allocations that could benefit women. Financial resources for the promotion of gender equality can be generated through reductions in military spending which is globally estimated to be $1,464 billion in 2008, an amount equal to the more than 24 years of additional aid required to realize the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Gender-responsive budgeting can be used as a tool for ensuring that sufficient resources are allocated and spent to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the response to the financial and economic crisis. Mechanisms such as gender equality observatories can be instrumental in monitoring the responsiveness of budgets and economic policies to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.

11. Countries are responding to the crisis and its consequences with a diverse range of policies and measures, depending on the impact of the crisis, the availability of resources and the capacity of governments to implement counter-cyclical fiscal and monetary policies. While responses include government bailouts of the financial sector and private companies, there are concerns that the sustainability of the financial sector is given priority over the well-being of households adversely affected by the crisis.

12. In response to the crisis, a number of governments have introduced employment guarantee schemes, public service employment programmes, food

for work, public works programmes and employment of last resort programmes in order to create jobs. There is need to ensure that these efforts create jobs for women, include appropriate training and provide childcare facilities. They should also focus on female-dominated sectors of the economy so as to counterbalance employment generated in the infrastructural sector. Investment in the social sector not only promotes women's empowerment but also makes economic sense. Evidence suggests that projects which focus on early-childhood development and home-based care have a stronger positive impact on employment, income and pro-poor growth than infrastructural projects.

13. As the crisis is expected to result in an increase in poverty, in particular for women, the necessary actions should target poor households, particularly in rural areas. These actions can include provision of access to affordable housing, free health services and vocational training and government-backed loans with low interest rates. Measures such as cash transfers, the provision of cheap fertilizers, microcredit schemes, establishment of women's cooperatives and promotion of women's entrepreneurial activities also aim to tackle women's poverty. Microcredit schemes with no collateral and low interest have been successful in increasing women's access to credit. Poverty alleviation policies cannot achieve their goals, however, if they do not focus on rights, capacity-building and the empowerment of women. Cash transfer programmes, for example, should also provide training opportunities and temporary employment for women. Particular attention should be paid to alleviating the burden of unpaid work of female-headed households with a view to increasing their opportunities for participation in the labour market.

14. Women continue to be largely absent from decision-making positions, in particular in the economic and financial sectors, with implications for the allocation of resources. Yet, women in leadership positions can serve as role models for empowering young women to seek opportunities in all sectors and levels of the labour market. Quotas have been effective in both the public and private sectors in addressing the underrepresentation of women in political and economic decision-making roles, for example, as members of boards of directors of trading companies. Further measures are needed to ensure the effective implementation of quotas and other temporary special measures to increase women's participation in decision-making.

15. Strong measures are needed to eliminate stereotypical attitudes regarding the role of women and men in society, which limit women's participation in the labour market. The role of families in early gender socialization remains critical in the elimination of gender stereotypes. In addition, opportunities should be sought to enhance the role of the media in providing a more balanced and realistic portrayal of women, including in leadership positions.

16. Labour market studies and expert meetings can serve to assist a better understanding of the impact of the crisis on women and develop gender-sensitive responses. The availability of good and reliable data disaggregated by sex and age supports the formulation of gender-sensitive policy responses to the crisis.

17. Partnerships among various stakeholders have been instrumental in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. Coordination and

collaboration between economic and social policymakers has contributed to the incorporation of social priorities in the design of economic policies. Partnerships with civil society, including women's organizations, in advocating for women's economic empowerment and raising awareness among women of their rights are needed and should be enhanced. Collaboration between the private and public sector in job creation for women should be expanded and strengthened to promote women's economic empowerment. Trade unions should play an active role in improving the working conditions of women in the labour market.

Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regards to gender equality and empowerment of women

1. On 9 March 2010, the Commission on the Status of Women convened an interactive expert panel in preparation for the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regards to gender equality and empowerment of women". The Chair of the Commission, Garen Nazarian, moderated the discussion. Opening statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General, Asha-Rose Migiro, and the President of the Economic and Social Council, Hamidon Ali. The panellists were: Gita Sen, Professor, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore/Adjunct Professor, Harvard University; Agnes Quisumbing, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute; and Leymah Roberta Gbowee, Executive Director, Women, Peace and Security Network, Africa. An issues paper prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women provided the framework for the discussion.

2. The year 2010 holds significant importance for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women as it marks the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 10-year review of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the 10-year review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security. The annual ministerial review to be held by the Economic and Social Council in June/July provides an opportunity to bring greater attention to the constraints on development due to gender inequality and gender-based discrimination. At its ministerial review in 2010, and at all future such reviews, the Council should enhance commitments and accelerate the implementation of concrete actions and strategies to realize gender equality as a central requirement for ensuring that the internationally agreed development goals are met.

3. Several current trends and emerging issues in the international economic policy framework constitute areas of concern for promoting and ensuring sustainable development and achieving goals on gender equality and empowerment of women. While globalization provides many opportunities to increase the economic empowerment of women, concrete measures are required to increase opportunities in international trade, especially for women entrepreneurs in developing countries. Commodity booms and lack of incentives to invest in food production and similar sectors can lead to investment volatility and to reduced food security, a concern that disproportionately affects women and increases hunger. Greater attention is needed to prevent post-conflict countries from reverting to war, with a

particular emphasis on the link between development and sustainable peace. International and national macroeconomic policies and frameworks should promote the participation of women as full partners in development and equal beneficiaries of economic growth.

4. Women continue to be disadvantaged as regards access to and control of economic and financial resources. Existing gender inequalities have exacerbated the adverse impact on women of the recent crises. Proposed solutions that depend upon pro-cyclical fiscal policies in developing countries, coupled with disincentives from international financial institutions and donors for countercyclical social expenditures, limit the capacity of developing and aid-dependent countries to alleviate the adverse impacts of the crises, including those on women. Domestic resource mobilization should be matched by international assistance and partnership for those countries that require assistance greater than their own resources can provide.

5. Common tools to combat poverty and increase women's economic empowerment have included conditional cash transfer and microcredit or microfinance programmes which have commonly targeted women and girls. While conditional cash transfer programmes have been successfully implemented mainly in middle-income countries, microcredit and microfinance programmes are increasingly common in developing countries. In order for such programmes to succeed, they need to be complemented by an expansion of social protection, decent work and full-employment policies and to respond to local conditions and build community support for their effectiveness and sustainability.

6. Women continue to have unequal access to political and economic decision-making processes and constitute a minority in most national, regional and global decision-making bodies at all levels. Urgent measures are needed to address these concerns. A range of innovative strategies and good practices are available to increase women's participation in all areas of decision-making. Quotas and other temporary special measures, such as reserved seats, have played a significant role in increasing the number of women in public life in a number of countries. These have often been complemented by such measures as awareness-raising campaigns on women's equal participation in public life, leadership training, demand-driven capacity-building and transparent selection systems. For strategies to be effective they need to be backed up by political support and removal of the discriminatory laws and practices that prevent women from seeking to participate in decision-making.

7. Of particular concern is women's continued conspicuous absence from formal peace processes. As a consequence, the needs and priorities of women and girls continue to be overlooked in peace agreements, at donor conferences, in post-conflict legal reform and in policy and programme development, a fact that may prevent the establishment of sustainable peace and be an impediment to development. Concrete action is required to enhance the role and involvement of women as key stakeholders in all stages of peace processes, including as mediators and equal participants in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and post-conflict development. Good practices for increasing women's representation in local, national and international conflict-resolution

and peacebuilding bodies should be more widely disseminated and consistently implemented.

8. Improved strategies and mechanisms are needed to strengthen collaboration, coordination and partnerships among various stakeholders, including Governments, civil society and international actors, for the effective implementation of Security Council resolutions related to women and peace and security (1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009)). Mechanisms for institutionalizing consultations with women's groups and organizations should be developed. Training, information-sharing and opportunities for women's groups to exchange experiences, including at the local level, with a view to strengthening their effective participation at all stages of peace processes should be systematically implemented.

9. Strong institutional mechanisms are key to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment at all levels and should be effectively integrated in the broader institutional framework and governance of countries. Sufficient human and financial resources must be guaranteed to such mechanisms so that they can effectively support and advocate the implementation of global and national commitments to gender equality. Increased capacity is needed in a number of areas, including the collection and analysis of gender-sensitive information and sex- and age-disaggregated data and the use of gender-responsive budgeting. Institutional mechanisms also have an important role to play in forging stronger partnerships with key stakeholders, such as civil society and the private sector.

10. Concrete steps are needed to incorporate into national legislation international norms and standards on the promotion and protection of the rights of women. Women's equal rights and the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex are included in many national constitutions, and legislation and regulations are in place on a range of areas, including those pertaining to women's equal right to use, own and inherit property. However, the coexistence of multiple legal systems in some countries continues to prevent the effective implementation of international obligations. A range of actions should be taken to ensure the full implementation of international standards and national law at different levels, such as: review of discriminatory laws; training programmes for civil servants, judicial and law enforcement personnel; national campaigns to raise awareness of, and support for, women's human rights; strengthening of community support for laws; and legal literacy campaigns targeted at women to raise awareness of their rights.

11. Enhanced accountability is integral to the realization of internationally agreed goals and commitments as regards gender equality and empowerment of women. The gap between political intention and action must be addressed and incentives, as well as more effective enforcement mechanisms within governments, institutions and organizations, are needed. Accountability for outcomes should be firmly embedded in policies and programmes through the use of such tools as results-based management and third-party evaluations. National action plans on gender equality with clear goals and indicators can strengthen accountability and transparency. Gender-responsive budgeting can significantly contribute to advancing gender equality as it enables an assessment of the different needs and contributions of women, men, girls and

boys, and can guide the adjustment of budget revenue, expenditure and allocation policies to the benefit of all groups. Independent watchdog bodies and civil society organizations have a key role to play in strengthening accountability for the implementation of commitments regarding gender equality. Having in place specific targets and benchmarks can improve accountability for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Carrying out on a regular basis of gender audits of all institutions and processes responsible for the implementation of internationally agreed development goals could accelerate progress towards gender equality and empowerment of women.

Decision 54/102
Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fourth session

At its 20th meeting, on 12 March 2010, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to take note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts;[89]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;[90]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women.[91]

[89] E/CN.6/2010/5.
[90] A/HRC/13/70-E/CN.6/2010/7.
[91] A/HRC/13/71-E/CN.6/2010/8.

Chapter II

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

5. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 3rd to 14th and 16th to 20th meetings, from 1 to 8 and 10 to 12 March 2010. It held a general debate at its 3rd, 5th to 8th, 11th, 13th and 16th meetings. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.6/2010/2);

(b) Note by the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women containing a discussion guide for the high-level round table on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.6/2010/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2010/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (E/CN.6/2010/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on ending female genital mutilation (E/CN.6/2010/6);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/13/70-E/CN.6/2010/7);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women (A/HRC/13/71-E/CN.6/2010/8);

(h) Letter dated 23 February 2010 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2010/10);

(i) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013: subprogramme 2, Gender issues and advancement of women, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs (E/CN.6/2010/CRP.1);

(j) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2010/CRP.2);

(k) Note by the Secretariat containing the outcomes of regional reviews (E/CN.6/2010/CRP.3);

(l) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-second and forty-third sessions (A/64/38);

(m) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2010/NGO/1-54).

6. At the 3rd meeting, on 1 March, opening statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General and the President of the Economic and Social Council.

7. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Executive Director for the United Nations Development Fund for Women. A statement was also made by the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

8. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of China, Spain (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Turkey and Cuba.

9. Also at the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Gambia, Yemen (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Chile (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Rio Group), Samoa (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Pacific Islands Forum), Argentina (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of MERCOSUR), New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as by the observer for the European Commission.

10. At the 5th meeting, on 2 March, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Italy, Sweden, Paraguay and the Republic of Korea.

11. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Equatorial Guinea (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group), Norway, Luxembourg, Kenya, Qatar, Lithuania, the Bahamas, South Africa, Jordan, Iceland, Cape Verde, Morocco and Barbados.

12. At the 6th meeting, on 2 March, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Haiti, Senegal, Cameroon, Azerbaijan, Nicaragua, Zambia, Mauritania, Indonesia, Namibia, Germany, the Russian Federation and Belgium.

13. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Afghanistan, Austria, Zimbabwe, Samoa, Montenegro, Canada, Fiji, Nepal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, the Czech Republic, Viet Nam, Peru, Portugal, the Philippines, Estonia and Greece.

14. At the 7th meeting, on 3 March, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Malaysia.

15. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Finland, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Angola, Serbia, Tunisia, Mongolia and Argentina, as well as by the observer for the Inter-Parliamentary Union Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians.

16. At its 8th meeting, on 3 March, the Commission heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

17. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Guinea, the Dominican Republic, Israel, Armenia, Pakistan, Colombia and Ecuador.

18. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Ghana, Sierra Leone, Hungary, Timor-Leste, the Congo, Switzerland, Costa Rica, Egypt, Slovenia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Kuwait, Guatemala, Swaziland, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Australia, Panama, Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Malawi and Solomon Islands.

19. At the 11th meeting, on 6 March, statements were made by the representatives of Lesotho, Japan, Cambodia, the Niger, Togo, the United Arab Emirates, Eritrea and India.

20. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Liberia, Ireland, Jamaica, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Denmark, the Netherlands, Algeria, Saint Kitts and Nevis, El Salvador, France, Guyana, Chile, Thailand, the Syrian Arab Republic, Bangladesh, Uruguay, Malta, Suriname, the Sudan and Benin.

21. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

22. Also at the 11th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: African Women's Development and Communications Network (on behalf of the African Women's Caucus); and Asia Pacific Women's Watch (on behalf of Asia Pacific Caucus).

23. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, statements were made by the representatives of Gabon, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Rwanda and Iraq.

24. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovakia, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Poland, Mali, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Marshall Islands, Saint Lucia, Georgia and Tuvalu, as well as by the observers for the Holy See and Palestine.

25. Also at the same meeting, the observers for the following intergovernmental organizations also made statements: League of Arab States; African Union; International Organization of la Francophonie; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Association of Economic and Social Councils and International Similar Institutions; International Organization for Migration; Economic Community of West African States; and International Fund for Agricultural Development.

26. Also at the 13th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the non-governmental organization, Oxfam Great Britain (on behalf of the European Women's Lobby).

27. At the same meeting, the representative of Turkey and the observer for Ethiopia made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

28. At the 16th meeting, on 10 March, statements were made by the representatives of the following organizations of the United Nations system: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, International Labour Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

29. At the same meeting, the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations made statements: Iberoamerican Caucus (Mujer para la Mujer, Vida y Familia de Guadalajara and Misión Mujer); Americans for UNFPA (also on behalf of Association for Women's Rights in Development; Australian Reproductive Health Alliance; Center for Health and Gender Equity; Center for Reproductive Rights; Centre for Development and Population Activities; Equidad de Género: Ciudadania, Trabajo y Familia; Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer; German Foundation for World Population; International Planned Parenthood Federation; International Women's Health Coalition; Ipas; Population Action International; Population Services International; Swedish Association for Sexuality Education; Women for Women's Human Rights: New Ways; and World Population Foundation); Huairou Commission (also on behalf of United Methodist Women; Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA); CAFRA Haiti; Madre; Women in Cities International; Católicas Por el Derecho a Decidir, Mexico; Ipas Mexico; Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida, Grassroots Organisations Operating Together in Sisterhood International; Gender and Disaster Network; Association for Women's Rights in Development; and American Jewish World Service); Education International (also on behalf of International Trade Union Confederation; Public Services International; Canadian Labour Congress; and Confederazione General Italiana del Lavoro); International Sexual and Reproductive Rights Coalition (also on behalf of Center for Reproductive Rights; Foundation for Studies and Research on Women; World Young Women's Christian Association; International Planned Parenthood Federation (Western Hemisphere region); Pathfinder International; Ipas; Population Action International; Center for Health and Gender Equity; International Women's Health Coalition; and World Population Foundation); International Federation of University Women (also on behalf of International Alliance of Women; African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters; Femmes Africa Solidarité; Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children; International Council on Social Welfare; International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples; International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse; Solar Cookers International; Women's Federation for World Peace International; Worldwide Organization for Women; and Zonta International); and International Alliance of Women.

30. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Eritrea made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals

1. High-level round table

31. At its 4th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission held a high-level round table on the theme "Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals". The high-level round table was convened as two parallel meetings, allowing for interaction among participants.

High-level round table A

32. High-level round table A was chaired by the Chair of the Commission, Garen Nazarian (Armenia).

33. A presentation was made by the keynote speaker, Caren Grown, Economist-in-Residence, American University, Washington, D.C.

34. The delegations of the following countries participated in the interactive dialogue: Indonesia, China, Greece, Spain, Mexico, Jordan, Azerbaijan, Panama, Germany, France, Pakistan, Tunisia, Portugal, Finland, Japan, Costa Rica, Eritrea, Switzerland, India, Egypt, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, Belgium, Cameroon, Bangladesh and Australia.

35. The representative of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities also participated.

36. The Commission heard responses by the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (on behalf of the organizations of the United Nations system) and by the representative of the International Indigenous Women's Forum (on behalf of civil society organizations).

37. The keynote speaker made concluding remarks.

High-level round table B

38. High-level round table B was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, Cesare Maria Ragaglini.

39. A presentation was made by the keynote speaker, Lydia Alpizar Durán, Executive Director of the Association for Women's Rights in Development, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

40. The delegations of the following countries participated in the interactive dialogue: Belarus, Canada, Italy, Israel, Norway, Qatar, Colombia, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Belgium, New Zealand, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Brazil, Philippines, Argentina, Syrian Arab Republic, Kazakhstan and South Africa.

41. The Commission heard the response by the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (on behalf of the organizations of the United Nations system) and by the representative of ISIS: Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange (on behalf of civil society organizations).

42. The keynote speaker made concluding remarks.

43. At its 20th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission took note of the Chair's summary of the discussions held by the high-level round table (E/CN.6/2010/CRP.5) and decided to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council as input to its annual ministerial review in 2010 (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 54/101).

2. Panel discussions

Linkages between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

44. At its 9th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on the theme "Linkages between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals".

45. Presentations were made by Eva Rathgeber, Joint Chair of Women's Studies, University of Ottawa/Carleton University, Canada; the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme and Resident Coordinator of the United Nations, Albania, Gülden-Türköz Cosslet; and Zo Randriamaro, Training Coordinator, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, and member of the Directorate of the Women's Environment and Development Organization.

46. The Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the delegations of the following countries participated: Jordan, Spain (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Belgium, China, Malaysia, Niger, Republic of Korea, United States of America, Albania, Morocco, Italy, Israel, Benin, Ireland, Norway, Solomon Islands, Canada, Paraguay, Philippines, Pakistan, Ecuador, Côte d'Ivoire, Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, Switzerland and Japan.

47. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: Public Services International (also on behalf of Education International and the International Trade Union Confederation); World Youth Alliance; Salvation Army (also on behalf of United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries; World Conference of Religions for Peace; and Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches); Action Canada for Population and Development; and European Youth Forum.

48. The Chair made a closing statement.

49. At its 20th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the discussions held by the panel (E/CN.6/2010/CRP.7) and decided to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council as input to its annual ministerial review in 2010 (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 54/101).

Regional perspectives in progress achieved and remaining gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

50. At its 10th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the theme "Regional perspectives in progress achieved and remaining gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action".

51. Presentations were made by the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Noeleen Heyzer; the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Bader al-Dafa; the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, Jan Kubiš; the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Lalla Ben Barka; and the Director of the Division for Gender Affairs, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Sonia Montaño.

52. The Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the delegations of the following countries participated: Spain (on behalf of the States Member of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Jordan, Indonesia, Cape Verde, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Denmark, Brazil, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Paraguay, New Zealand, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Canada, Mauritania, Niger, Israel, Philippines, Burundi, Ecuador, Guatemala and South Africa.

53. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: African Women's Development and Communication Network; European Women's Lobby; Centre for Democracy and Development; and Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance Foundations.

54. The moderator made a closing statement.

55. At its 20th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the discussions held by the panel (E/CN.6/2010/CRP.6).[92]

Commemorating 30 years of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

56. At its 12th meeting, on 6 March, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the theme "Commemorating 30 years of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women".

57. Presentations were made by Dubravka Šimonović, Head of the Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Croatia, and member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; Sapana Pradhan-Malla, lawyer and President, Forum on Women, Law and Development, Nepal; and Andrew Byrnes, Professor of Law, University of New South Wales, Australia.

58. The Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the delegations of the following countries participated: Belgium, Indonesia, Israel, Paraguay, Austria, Mexico, Spain (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Japan, Philippines, Switzerland, Cuba, Canada, Liechtenstein, Colombia, Uganda, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Cambodia, Solomon Islands, Guinea-Bissau, Burundi, Congo, South Africa, Botswana, United Republic of Tanzania, Sweden (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway) and Thailand.

[92] Available from www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/parallel.html.

59. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: International Federation of Women Lawyers; Human Rights Advocates; American Association of Jurists; and Italian Association for Women in Development.

60. At its 20th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the discussion held by the panel (E/CN.6/2010/CRP.12).[92]

Women's economic empowerment in the context of the global economic and financial crisis

61. At its 14th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the theme "Women's economic empowerment in the context of the global economic and financial crisis".

62. Presentations were made by Alma Espino, Economist and Researcher, Economics Institute, Faculty of Economics and Administration at the Republic University, Uruguay; Mona Khalaf, Economist and Independent Consultant on Gender and Development Issues; and Rania Antonopoulos, Director, Gender Equality and the Economy Programme, Levy Institute in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, United States of America.

63. The Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the delegations of the following countries participated: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Brazil, Senegal, China, Spain (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Italy, Israel, Republic of Korea, Paraguay, Islamic Republic of Iran, Austria, Iceland, Turkey, Colombia, Armenia, Belgium, Japan, Netherlands, Switzerland, South Africa, Philippines, Thailand and Rwanda.

64. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: International Federation of Business and Professional Women; World Student Christian Federation (also on behalf of Anglican Consultative Council, Association of Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa (New Zealand) and World Conference of Religions for Peace); Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; and Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (also on behalf of HelpAge International; Huairou Commission: Women, Homes and Community; and Grassroots Organisations Operating Together in Sisterhood).

65. At its 20th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the discussions held by the panel (E/CN.6/2010/CRP.8) and decided to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council as input to its annual ministerial review in 2010 (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 54/101).

Unite to end violence against women

66. At its 17th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission held an expert panel discussion on the theme "Unite to end violence against women", and heard a statement by the Secretary-General on his campaign, "UNiTE to End Violence against Women".

67. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström, made a statement.

68. Presentations were made by Dean Peacock, member of the Secretary-General's Network of Men Leaders and Co-Founder and Co-Director of the non-governmental organization, Sonke Gender Justice Network; Susanna Chiarotti, Director, Institute for Gender, Law and Development, Rosario, Argentina; and Walter Füllemann, Head of Delegation, International Committee of the Red Cross to the United Nations, New York.

69. The Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the delegations of the following countries participated: Jordan, Spain (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Namibia, Turkey, Serbia, Israel, Belgium, China, Belarus, Indonesia, India, Mali, Cameroon, Finland (also on behalf of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), Senegal, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Canada, Armenia, Switzerland, Ghana, Philippines, Bhutan, Austria, Morocco, Niger, Cambodia, Congo and Qatar.

70. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: ActionAid; Soroptimist International; Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches (also on behalf of Salvation Army, United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries and World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women); and Human Rights Advocates.

71. At its 20th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the discussions held by the panel (E/CN.6/2010/CRP.10).[92]

The evolving status and role of national mechanisms for gender equality

72. At its 18th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on the theme "The evolving status and role of national mechanisms for gender equality".

73. Presentations were made by Rounaq Jahan, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh; Senator Margaret Mensah-Williams, Vice-Chair, National Council of Namibia and Vice-President, Inter-Parliamentary Union; and Mary Rusimbi, gender specialist and development practitioner and member of the Board of Directors of Partnership Africa Canada.

74. The Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the delegations of the following countries participated: Canada, Turkey, Paraguay, Jordan, Spain (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Sweden (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway), Pakistan, Japan, Republic of Korea, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Italy, Armenia, Rwanda, Indonesia, Israel, Cambodia, Benin, Philippines, Australia, Tuvalu, Ghana, Switzerland, Serbia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mexico and South Africa.

75. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: United Cities and Local Governments; Action Canada for Population and Development; and Church Women United (also on behalf of the Association of Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa (New Zealand), World Conference of Religions for Peace, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, and Presbyterian Church USA).

76. At its 20th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the discussions held by the panel (E/CN.6/2010/CRP.11).[92]

Action taken by the Commission

Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

77. At its 5th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women" (E/CN.6/2010/L.1), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations.

78. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/2010/L.1 and decided that the Declaration annexed thereto should be transmitted to the General Assembly for endorsement, through the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 54/1, and sect. D, draft decision).

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

79. At the 18th meeting, on 11 March, the observer for Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, as well as Palestine, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" (E/CN.6/2010/L.4).

80. At its 19th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

81. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, as well as Palestine.

82. Also at the same meeting, following statements by the representative of Israel and the observer for Jordan, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/2010/L.4 by a recorded vote of 31 to 2, with 10 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. B). The voting was as follows:[93]

In favour:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Guinea, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Senegal, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Zambia.

Against:

Israel, United States.

Abstaining:

Belgium, Cameroon, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Togo.

83. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of the United States.

[93] After the vote, the representative of Gabon indicated that his delegation had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

84. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of Japan.

85. Statements were made by the observers for Egypt and Palestine.

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

86. At the 18th meeting, on 11 March, the representative of Namibia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS" (E/CN.6/2010/L.2/Rev.1). Subsequently, Panama joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The Commission on the Status of Women*,

"*Reaffirming* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, the HIV/AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000 and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the aim of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the transmission of HIV, as well as the commitments on HIV/AIDS made at the 2005 World Summit,

"*Welcoming* the in-depth study of the Secretary-General on all forms of violence against women, taking note of the recommendations contained therein, and welcoming the initiative taken by the Secretary-General in 2008 to launch a multi-year campaign to end violence against women,

"*Taking note* of the outcome of the 2008 high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS,

"*Recalling* all previous resolutions on this subject,

"*Reaffirming* that prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic, and recognizing the need to ensure the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS,

"*Recognizing* that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are increasingly vulnerable to HIV infection,

"*Deeply concerned* by the increased vulnerability to HIV infection faced by women and girls living with disabilities resulting from, inter alia, legal and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their rights,

"*Also deeply concerned* that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic disproportionately affects women and girls and that the majority of new HIV infections occur among young people,

"*Concerned* that the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV and AIDS is increased by their unequal legal, economic and social status, including poverty as well as other cultural and physiological factors, violence against women and girls and adolescents, child marriage, forced marriage, premature and early sexual relations, commercial sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation,

"*Also concerned* that HIV infection rates are at least twice as high among young people, especially young and married women, who do not finish primary school as among those who do,

"*Further concerned* that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV and AIDS and have different and unequal access to the use of health resources for the prevention and treatment of and care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS,

"*Stressing* that the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with its devastating scale and impact on women and girls, requires urgent action in addressing internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in all fields and at all levels,

"*Also stressing* that gender equality and the political, social and economic empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV and AIDS and are essential to reversing the pandemic,

"*Expressing its concern* that the HIV/AIDS pandemic reinforces gender inequalities, that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the epidemic, that they are more easily infected, especially at an earlier age than men and boys, that they bear the disproportionate burden of caring for and supporting people living with and affected by the disease and that they become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the epidemic,

"1. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by the relevant actors, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

"2. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010, as set out in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, and stresses the urgency of significantly scaling up efforts towards meeting this goal;

"3. *Further reaffirms* the commitment to scale up towards universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, integrating this goal into strategies to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty;

"4. *Stresses* the need to significantly increase and coordinate political and financial commitment to address gender equality and equity in national

HIV and AIDS responses, and urges Governments to effectively reflect in their national policies, strategies and budgets the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;

"5. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and girls, to strengthen their economic independence and their right to property and inheritance, and to protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and to mitigate the impact of the pandemic;

"6. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the challenges faced by older women in accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support as well as in caring for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, including orphaned and vulnerable children;

"7. *Also urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by women and girls living with disabilities, ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

"8. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV and AIDS and sexual and reproductive health, and their inclusion in national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches, where they exist, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic and mitigating its impact on the population, which could result in more relevant and cost-effective interventions with greater impact;

"9. *Urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that integrate HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and include voluntary counselling and testing, including through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

"10. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the situation faced by girls caring for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, who are often forced to drop out of school;

"11. *Urges* Governments to ensure accessible and affordable procurement of prevention commodities, in particular male and female condoms, to ensure that their supply is adequate and secure, as well as to promote the ongoing research for safe and effective microbicides;

"12. *Reminds* Member States to consider that flexibilities in trade-related intellectual property rights can be used by Member States, when necessary, to protect public health and address public health crises;

"13. *Urges* Governments to strengthen and implement legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the prevention and elimination of all

forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, abuse, child marriage and forced marriage, rape, including marital rape, and other forms of sexual violence and coerced sexual activity, battering and trafficking in women and girls, and to ensure that violence against women is addressed as an integral part of the national HIV and AIDS response;

"14. *Also urges* Governments, where they have not yet done so, to institute and ensure the enforcement of laws to protect women and girls from child and forced marriage and marital rape;

"15. *Further urges* Governments to prioritize and expand access to treatment for all people in all settings, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases and the effective use of and adherence to antiretroviral medication, including through access to clinical and laboratory testing and post-exposure prophylaxis, with the full protection of their human rights, including their reproductive rights and sexual health, in accordance with, inter alia, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and other relevant international human rights instruments;

"16. *Urges* Governments to promote access to affordable, high-quality, safe and effective drugs and related pharmaceutical products, in particular for women and girls, and to monitor access to treatment by age, sex, marital status and continuity of care;

"17. *Requests* Governments to promote and provide equal and equitable access for all persons, throughout their life cycle, to social services related to health care, including education, clean water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security and health, education programmes and social protection schemes, especially for women and girls living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, including prevention and treatment for opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases;

"18. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV and AIDS, including through challenging gender stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard;

"19. *Stresses* that women and girls should be empowered to protect themselves against violence and that, in this regard, women have the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

"20. *Calls upon* all Governments and the international donor community to integrate a gender perspective in all matters of international assistance and cooperation and to take measures to ensure that resources concomitant with the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls are made available, in particular in funding provided to national HIV and AIDS programmes to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls in the context of the epidemic, to promote economic opportunities for women, including to diminish their

financial vulnerability and their risk of exposure to HIV, and to achieve the gender-related goals found, inter alia, in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;

"21. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate HIV prevention, voluntary counselling and voluntary testing of HIV into other health services, including sexual and reproductive health, family planning, maternity and tuberculosis services, as well as the provision of services for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections in the mother-to-child transmission services for pregnant women living with HIV;

"22. *Encourages* the continued collaboration among the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations in order to continue to scale up efforts to reduce the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, in particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and to seek actively the achievement of results for women and girls, and also encourages the integration of the mainstreaming of a gender perspective throughout their work;

"23. *Welcomes* the decision of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to scale up a gender-sensitive response to HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in order to address the vulnerabilities of women and girls to HIV infection;

"24. *Requests* the secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations agencies responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to mainstream a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV- and AIDS-related operations, including policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and to ensure that programmes and policies are developed and adequately resourced to address the specific needs of women and girls;

"25. *Welcomes* the *Operational Plan for UNAIDS Action Framework: Addressing Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV*, endorsed by the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS at its twenty-fifth session, and calls on Member States and other partners to support its implementation;

"26. *Recommends* the development and use of gender analysis, the harmonization of data and the development and refinement of indicators as part of the process to update the core indicators on HIV and AIDS for the reporting system under the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, to help measure the inequalities faced by women and girls in the context of HIV;

"27. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to support national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the context of the 'three ones' principles, to enable the production and dissemination of comprehensive and timely information on the gender dimension of the pandemic, including through the collection of data disaggregated by sex, age and marital status, and to raise awareness about the need to address the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV and AIDS;

"28. *Encourages* Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, convened by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, to mobilize and support a wide range of national actors, including women's groups and networks of women living with HIV, in order to ensure that national HIV and AIDS programmes are better able to respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls and adolescents;

"29. *Welcomes* the call by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2015, and urges Governments to rapidly scale up access to prevention and treatment programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission, to encourage women and girls to participate in those programmes and to provide sustained treatment and care for the mother after pregnancy, including care and support for the family;

"30. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes, including awareness-raising programmes, to encourage and enable men, including young men, to adopt safe, non-coercive and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections;

"31. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that young men and women have access to information and education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, sexual education and services necessary for behavioural change, to enable them to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and reproductive ill health, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

"32. *Calls for* enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV and AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including by focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV and AIDS;

"33. *Encourages* Governments and all other relevant actors to promote funding, both domestically and externally, and to support and expedite action-oriented research leading to affordable, safe and effective methods controlled by women to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, including microbicides and vaccines and research on strategies that empower women to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and methods of care, support and treatment for women of various ages, and to promote their involvement in all aspects of such research;

"34. *Encourages* Governments to increase the provision of resources and facilities to women who find themselves having to provide care and/or economic support for those infected with HIV or affected by the pandemic and to address the challenges faced by the survivors and caregivers, in particular children and older persons, as well as to provide the balanced sharing of the provision of care by both men and women;

"35. *Emphasizes* the negative impact of HIV-related stigma, especially for women and girls, in seeking and accessing HIV programmes, and urges Governments to develop and implement policies and programmes to eliminate

HIV-related stigma and to ensure that the dignity, rights and privacy of people living with HIV, in particular women and girls, are protected;

"36. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV, young people and civil society actors, in particular women's organizations, in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and to promote their full involvement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV and AIDS programmes, as well as in creating an enabling environment to combat stigmatization;

"37. *Urges* Governments, the donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to prioritize programmes addressing the specific needs of women and girls in HIV response, to ensure resources to support the development of capacities of women's organizations for HIV and AIDS programme development and implementation, and to streamline funding procedures and requirements that will facilitate resource flows to community-level services;

"38. *Also urges* Governments, the donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to ensure that gender equality implications are a key component of research, implementation and evaluation of new prevention methods and that such new prevention methods are part of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention that protects and supports the rights of women and girls;

"39. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

"40. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in planning for comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

"41. *Urges* the international community to complement and supplement, through increased international development assistance, efforts of the developing countries that commit increased national funds to fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially to address the needs of women and girls, in particular those countries most affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Caribbean;

"42. *Recommends* that, in the process of the review of the Millennium Development Goals, gender-equality perspectives should be included throughout the deliberations and that attention should be paid to the situation of women and girls living with HIV and AIDS."

87. At the 19th meeting, on 12 March, the representative of Namibia, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised draft resolution E/CN.6/2010/L.2/Rev.1.

88. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution, as orally revised, had no programme budget implications.

89. At the 20th meeting, on 12 March, the representative of Namibia, on behalf of the sponsors, further orally revised the draft resolution.

90. Subsequently, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Canada, the Comoros, the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Portugal, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as further orally revised.

91. At the same meeting, the Secretary stated that, in view of the extensive oral revisions to the draft resolution, the Secretariat reserved its position in respect of any potential programme budget implications to which its adoption might give rise.

92. Also at the 20th meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/2010/L.2/Rev.1, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 54/2).[94]

93. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

94. At the 18th meeting, on 11 March, the representative of Azerbaijan, on behalf of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Burkina Faso, the Congo, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Niger, the Philippines, Senegal and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts" (E/CN.6/2010/L.3). Subsequently, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

95. At its 19th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

96. Also at its 19th meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/2010/L.3 (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 54/3).

Women's economic empowerment

97. At the 18th meeting, on 11 March, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Mongolia, Norway and Panama, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women's economic empowerment" (E/CN.6/2010/L.5), which read:

> *"The Commission on the Status of Women,*
>
> *"Reaffirming* the commitments related to women's economic empowerment made at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in 1995 and at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, held in 2000,

[94] After the adoption of the draft resolution, the delegation of the United Kingdom advised that it had intended to co-sponsor it, and the delegation of Egypt informed the Commission that it had not intended to do so.

as well as those contained in the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women,

"*Recalling* relevant international commitments that contribute to women's economic empowerment, made at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including at the 2005 World Summit and at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha in 2008,

"*Recalling also* that in the agreed conclusions adopted in 2008, the Commission on the Status of Women noted the growing body of evidence demonstrating that investing in women and girls had a multiplier effect on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth and that increasing women's economic empowerment was central to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to the eradication of poverty,

"*Bearing in mind* that in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, Heads of State and Government and high representatives recalled that gender equality was essential for economic growth, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability and development effectiveness and reiterated the need for gender mainstreaming into the formulation and implementation of development policies, including financing for development policies, and for dedicated resources,

"*Noting* that there is increasing recognition that women's economic empowerment is a key strategy for economic development, which not only improves the economic status of women, their households and communities but also creates a multiplier effect for economic growth, and that the lack of economic empowerment for women has a negative impact on the goals of economic growth and poverty reduction and leads to less favourable development outcomes,

"*Underlining* the importance of strengthening domestic financial sectors as a source of capital by making them available to women living in poverty, in particular women living in rural areas, thus expanding their access to financial services,

"*Reiterating* that access to microfinance and microcredit can contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular the goals relating to poverty eradication, gender equality and the empowerment of women,

"*Reaffirming* that microfinance, in particular microcredit programmes, has succeeded in generating productive self-employment and has proved to be an effective tool in overcoming poverty, and bearing in mind that microfinance, in particular microcredit, and other financial instruments, have especially benefited women and have contributed to the achievement of their economic empowerment,

"*Expressing its concern* that, while women represent an important and growing proportion of business owners, their contribution to economic and social development is constrained by, inter alia, the denial and lack of equal

rights and their lack of access to legal aid, education, training, information, support services, credit facilities, salaries, and control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production,

"*Considering* that inequality and discrimination in access to resources have implications for the well-being of women, their families and communities, as well as for economic growth and development,

"*Stressing* the importance of developing effective measures to ensure the application of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for equal work or work of equal value, promote equality of opportunity and treatment among men and women in respect of employment and occupation, enable persons with family responsibilities who are engaged or wish to engage in employment to exercise their right to do so, and eliminate discrimination against women in these regards,

"*Bearing in mind* that women's economic empowerment has an impact on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and contributes in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"1. *Calls upon* States to incorporate gender perspectives into social and economic policies, including development and poverty reduction strategies and related actions, and to address the extent to which policies, programmes and activities effectively address the needs, priorities and contributions of women and men, with a view to ensuring that the formulation and implementation of relevant strategies contribute to women's economic empowerment;

"2. *Urges* States to develop and implement specific policies and programmes to promote women's economic empowerment, including through enhancing their access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, and supporting women's entrepreneur capacities and initiatives, with the aim of ensuring sustainable and adequate income generation;

"3. *Calls upon* States to give priority to identifying and addressing women's unequal access to economic and financial resources, including employment, social security and productive resources such as land, property and natural resources, and to consider the adoption of legislation and the implementation of more effective national policies in this regard.

"4. *Calls upon* Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors of civil society to take the following actions:

"(a) Continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance the employability of women, ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work, including through improving access to formal, non-formal and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining, long-distance education, including in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, and to support women's economic empowerment in the different stages of their lives;

"(b) Address workplace discrimination and inequalities, such as horizontal and vertical occupational segregation, including for promoting women's participation in high-level management activities and in economic decision-making;

"(c) Adopt positive steps to promote equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;

"(d) Promote and protect the rights of women workers, and take action to remove structural and legal barriers as well as stereotypic attitudes to gender equality at work, addressing, inter alia, gender bias in recruitment; working conditions; remuneration; occupational segregation and harassment; discrimination in social protection benefits; women's occupational health and safety; women's disproportionate representation in the informal sector, and the need to cover this sector in labour regulations and social protection schemes; unequal career opportunities; the situation of domestic workers, including migrant women; and the inadequate sharing of family responsibilities;

"5. *Calls upon* States to enhance women's access to social protection schemes, throughout the life cycle, including health insurance and pension schemes, giving particular attention to strengthening and expanding social protection to meet the needs of women living in poverty;

"6. *Urges* States to undertake the following actions:

"(a) Continue to strengthen policies relevant for women's economic empowerment aimed at addressing inequality affecting women in access to and achievement in education at all levels, in particular to narrow disadvantages caused by factors such as poverty, geographic location, language, ethnicity and disability; adopting measures to promote non-discriminatory education and broader career choices; scaling up strategies to encourage and support girls' participation in science and technology; and implementing initiatives to translate the educational achievements of women into employment opportunities;

"(b) Enhance the implementation of policies that also have an impact on women's economic empowerment related to access to education throughout the life cycle, to use of information and communication technologies in programmes for adult education and vocational training, and to the eradication of illiteracy;

"7. *Urges* States to adopt legislation, policies and programmes aimed at eliminating the constraints faced by women in accessing formal financial services, including savings, credit, insurance and money transfer services, giving particular attention to the obstacles faced by poor women living in rural and urban areas in having access to those services, including to microfinancing;

"8. *Encourages* all relevant economic stakeholders, including, as appropriate, States, the private sector, international cooperation agencies, non-governmental organizations and financial institutions, to continue to take gender perspectives into account in the design of loans, grants, projects, programmes and strategies;

"9. *Calls upon* Governments, and encourages, as appropriate, United Nations entities, international cooperation agencies, international financial institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors, to take measures to develop, finance, implement, monitor and

evaluate gender-responsive policies and programmes aimed at promoting women's entrepreneurship, in particular to benefit women living in poverty, including through greater access to formal financial instruments, microfinance, microcredit, cooperatives, technological innovation and transfer, investments, knowledge and skills training, advisory services, access to markets, including through international trade, and facilitation of networking and exchanges;

"10. *Recognizes* that global advances in information and communication technologies have created significant potential for facilitating women's economic empowerment, and that realizing this potential requires efforts to increase women's access to and effective use of such technology;

"11. *Encourages* States, United Nations entities, academic institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors, to promote research on the economic situation of women, including in the area of employment, and on the impacts of the financial and economic crisis, climate change, energy crises and the conditions of international trade, on the economic empowerment of women, in particular rural, indigenous and migrant women, in order to effectively inform related responses and policies;

"12. *Encourages* States to continue to share good practices related to women's economic empowerment, and urges donors and the international community to promote international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, for enhancing women's economic empowerment;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

98. At the 20th meeting, on 12 March, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised draft resolution E/CN.6/2010/L.5.

99. Subsequently, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

100. At the same meeting, the Secretary stated that, in view of the extensive oral revisions to the draft resolution, the Secretariat reserved its position in respect of any potential programme budget implications to which its adoption might give rise.

101. Also at the 20th meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/2010/L.5, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 54/4).

102. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba and Colombia, as well as by the observer for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women

103. At the 18th meeting, on 11 March, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf of Belarus, Benin, Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Panama, Rwanda, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women" (E/CN.6/2010/L.6). Subsequently, Cameroon, Gabon, India and the Seychelles joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"*Reaffirming* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes of their review conferences and commitments regarding the reduction of maternal, newborn and child mortality and universal access to reproductive health, including those contained in the 2000 Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and recalling other relevant United Nations resolutions,

"*Reaffirming also* the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health, including the targets to reduce by three quarters between 1990 and 2015 the maternal mortality ratio and to achieve by 2015 universal access to reproductive health, Millennium Development Goal 4 on reducing child mortality, Millennium Development Goal 3 on promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, and Millennium Development Goal 6 on combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and noting with concern that Millennium Development Goal 5 is the least likely of all the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved based on current data,

"*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the obligations of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

"*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution 11/8 of 17 June 2009 on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights, and Commission on Population and Development resolution 2009/1 of 3 April 2009 on the contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recalling* the ministerial declaration of the 2009 high-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council, entitled "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health",

"*Taking note* of the Addis Call to Urgent Action for Maternal Health adopted at the High-level Meeting for Maternal Health, held at Addis Ababa on 26 October 2009, where representatives of Governments, civil society, the private sector and youth recognized three measures to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity and improve reproductive health, including prioritization of family planning, commitment to adolescent health, and strengthened health systems that include sexual and reproductive health; and taking note also of the subsequent Addis Ababa Statement of Commitment resulting from the 2009 International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held on 27 and 28 October 2009,

"*Recognizing* the role of the United Nations system, including its funds, programmes and agencies, in particular the leading roles of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank, in eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and the work under the annual World Health Assembly agenda item on monitoring the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals, and welcoming the ongoing efforts of United Nations entities to promote gender equality, empowerment of women, human rights, development and peace through, inter alia, the mainstreaming of a gender equality perspective in United Nations activities,

"*Welcoming* the ongoing partnerships between a variety of stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels aimed at addressing the multifaceted determinants of global health and the commitments and initiatives to accelerate progress on the health-related Millennium Development Goals, including those announced at the high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals held at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 2008, and at the corresponding follow-up high-level event held on 23 September 2009,

"*Expressing deep concern* that more than half a million women and adolescent girls die every year from largely preventable complications related to pregnancy or childbirth; that, for every death, an estimated twenty additional women and girls suffer from pregnancy-related and childbirth-related injury, disability, infection and disease, and more than 200 million women worldwide lack access to safe, affordable and effective forms of contraception, and further expressing grave concern over the almost nine million children — four million of them newborns — who will die in 2010, chiefly from preventable causes, and that children whose mothers die are ten times more likely to die within two years,

"*Recognizing* that, as reported by the World Health Organization, the causes of maternal death, in order of prevalence worldwide, include severe bleeding (haemorrhage), infections, complications due to unsafe abortion procedures, high blood pressure in pregnancy (eclampsia), obstructed labour, and other direct causes, accounting for an estimated 80 per cent of maternal mortality worldwide,

"*Expressing deep concern* that HIV infection significantly increases the risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, so that, in countries with high HIV prevalence, AIDS-related complications are one of the leading causes of maternal mortality,

"*Acknowledging* that failure to prevent maternal mortality and morbidity is one of the most significant barriers to the empowerment of women and girls in all aspects of life, the full enjoyment of their human rights, and their ability to reach their full potential,

"*Reaffirming* its commitment to the equal participation of women and men in public and political life as a key element in women's and men's equal participation in eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity,

"*Reaffirming* its strong commitment to the full implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, as well as the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action agreed at the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action; emphasizing that gender equality cannot be achieved without promoting and protecting the right of women to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reaffirming that expanding access to sexual and reproductive health information and health services is essential for achieving the Beijing Platform for Action, the Cairo Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing* the need for greater coordination, global cooperation and commitment to achieving universal access to health services for women and girls through a primary health-care approach and evidence-based interventions and to reducing maternal mortality and morbidity, including through the provision of sexual and reproductive health-care services as agreed to in the Beijing Platform for Action,

"*Recognizing also* that the unacceptably high global rates of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity are directly related to the presence of persistent gender inequalities, including gender-based violence, harmful traditional practices such as early and forced marriage or early common law unions, female genital mutilation, lack of education, poverty, lack of economic opportunity, lack of participation in decision-making, multiple forms of discrimination and inequitable access to adequate health services and facilities,

"*Recognizing* that early pregnancy and early childbearing present a much higher risk of complications during pregnancy and delivery as well as maternal mortality and morbidity and that complications from pregnancy and childbirth are among the leading causes of death for women between the ages of 15 and 19 in developing countries,

"*Underlining* the need to address women's health through comprehensive strategies targeting root causes of gender inequality in health care, including unequal and limited access to health services, and stressing the importance of strengthening health systems to better respond to women's health needs in terms of access, comprehensiveness and quality,

"1. *Expresses deep concern* regarding the persistent and unacceptably high global rate of maternal mortality and morbidity, and urges the global community to strongly commit itself at all levels to the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity;

"2. *Urges* global and national leaders to generate the political will, increased resources, commitment, cooperation and technical assistance urgently required to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, to improve maternal health and to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 by 2015;

"3. *Calls upon* States to fully and effectively implement the Beijing Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes of their review conferences, including the commitments relating to sexual and reproductive health, and the promotion and protection of all human rights in this context; and to maximize their efforts to eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity by strengthening comprehensive health services to women and girls, in particular adolescents, including access to sexual and reproductive health-care services as agreed to in the Beijing Platform for Action;

"4. *Further calls upon* States to reverse gender inequalities and violations of women's rights, including discrimination against women and girls, harmful traditional practices such as early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, as well as poverty, that contribute to the unacceptably high and persistent global rate of maternal mortality and morbidity, bearing in mind the impact of multiple forms of discrimination; to guarantee to all women access to the highest attainable standard of health; and to ensure women's full participation in decision-making at local, national and international levels regarding health care;

"5. *Urges* Member States to strengthen health systems to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, by seeking improvement in areas recognized in the World Health Organization Framework for Action, including service delivery; health workforce; information; medical products, vaccines and technologies; financing; and leadership and governance, using a gender perspective for women and girls;

"6. *Acknowledges* the critical role and shared responsibilities of men and boys in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity and promoting the health of women and girls, and urges Member States, the United Nations, and civil society to include in their development-priorities programmes that support the critical role of men in making pregnancy and childbirth safe, contributing to family planning, preventing sexually transmitted infections and HIV, and ending violence against women and girls;

"7. *Encourages* Member States, including donor countries, and the international community to increase their efforts to eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity through effective health interventions and health system strengthening, promotion and protection of women's human rights and the empowerment of women and girls, and to give renewed emphasis to maternal mortality and morbidity initiatives in their development partnerships and cooperation arrangements, by honouring existing commitments and considering new commitments in areas such as humanitarian, emergency and crisis situations, and coordinating at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in September 2010 to strengthen planning and accountability for greatly accelerated progress on reducing maternal mortality and morbidity;

"8. *Urges* States to elaborate and implement comprehensive gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues in order to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity;

"9. *Also encourages* Member States, in particular those with persistent high maternal mortality and morbidity, to maximize the efficient use of existing resources for maternal health and also to meet commitments such as those included in the Abuja Declaration to reduce poverty, and to increase budgetary allocations towards health and development programmes that would eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity;

"10. *Urges* Member States, civil society, especially women's organizations, and the private sector to strengthen partnerships to eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity;

"11. *Encourages* States to collect data disaggregated by sex and age and other categories on a range of factors contributing to maternal mortality and morbidity, as needed for monitoring in a timely fashion progress towards Millennium Development Goal 5, and to share such data with the United Nations system for better tracking of progress towards Millennium Development Goal 5 and its targets;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to contribute information to existing United Nations web resources for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Millennium Development Goal 5, to track progress, make accurate and verifiable statistics accessible, provide information on coordination and activities within the United Nations system and, as feasible, to include a compendium of best practices that have been adopted by Member States, United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, the private sector and non-governmental organizations on reducing maternal mortality and morbidity, including through the elimination of gender discrimination and gender inequalities;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, in consultation with Member States, international organizations, and all other relevant stakeholders, taking into account Human Rights Council resolution 11/8, on actions to strengthen linkages among programmes throughout the United Nations system for the empowerment of women and girls, protection of their human rights and elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity;

"14. *Decides* to hold at its fifty-fifth session an expert panel discussion on the implementation of the present resolution, including oral briefings by and interactive discussion with the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the GAVI Alliance, the Global Fund, the private sector and civil society."

104. At the 20th meeting, on 12 March, the representative of the United States, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised draft resolution E/CN.6/2010/L.6.

105. Subsequently, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Canada, Cape Verde, the Comoros, the Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Lesotho, Mali, Mongolia, Namibia, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Senegal, Solomon Islands, South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

106. At the same meeting, the Secretary stated that, in view of the extensive oral revisions to the draft resolution, the Secretariat reserved its position in respect of any potential programme budget implications to which its adoption might give rise.

107. Also at the 20th meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/2010/L.6, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 54/5).

108. Prior to the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Mali and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as by the observers for Jordan, Norway (also on behalf of the United Kingdom), New Zealand, Ireland, Poland, Malta, Chile, Saint Lucia, Denmark (also on behalf of Finland and Sweden) and the Holy See.

Strengthening the institutional arrangements of the United Nations for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women by consolidating the four existing offices into a composite entity

109. At the 18th meeting, on 11 March, the observer for Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Yemen (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements of the United Nations for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women by consolidating the four existing offices into a composite entity" (E/CN.6/2010/L.7). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Croatia, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Greece, Israel, Liechtenstein, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga and Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

110. At its 19th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

111. The observer for Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement, made a statement.

112. Also at its 19th meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/2010/L.7 (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 54/6).

113. Prior to the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the observer for Norway.

114. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the observer for Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Joint Coordinating Committee of the Group of 77 and China and of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement, made a statement.

Ending female genital mutilation

115. At the 19th meeting, on 12 March, the observer for Equatorial Guinea, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution, entitled "Ending female genital mutilation" (E/CN.6/2010/L.8). Subsequently, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Eritrea, France, Germany, Guinea, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The Commission on the Status of Women*,

"*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 58/156 of 22 December 2003 and 60/141 of 16 December 2005, Commission on the Status of Women resolution 51/2 of 9 March 2007 and 52/2 of 7 March 2008 and all other relevant resolutions, as well as all relevant agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

"*Welcoming* the launch of the Secretary-General's campaign 'UNiTE to End Violence against Women', as well as the launch of the database of the Secretary-General on violence against women during the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

"*Reaffirming* that the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, together with their Optional Protocols, constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of girls,

"*Reaffirming also* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and their five- and ten-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the commitments relevant to the girl child made at the 2005 World Summit,

"*Recalling* the entry into force on 25 November 2005 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women of Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which contains, inter alia, undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation and marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment and ending of female genital mutilation,

"*Recalling also* general recommendation No. 14, concerning female circumcision, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its ninth session, paragraphs 11, 20 and 24 (l) of general recommendation No. 19, concerning violence against women, adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session, and paragraphs 15 (d) and 18 of general recommendation No. 24, concerning article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on women and health, adopted by the Committee at its twentieth session, and taking note of paragraphs 21, 35 and 51 of general comment No. 14 concerning article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its twenty-second session,

"*Recognizing* that female genital mutilation violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls,

"*Recognizing also* that female genital mutilation is an irreparable, irreversible abuse that affects one hundred to one hundred and forty million women and girls alive today, and that each year a further three million girls are at risk of undergoing the procedure,

"*Reaffirming* that harmful traditional or customary practices, including female genital mutilation, constitute a serious threat to the health of women and girls, including their psychological, sexual and reproductive health, which can increase their vulnerability to HIV and may have adverse obstetric and prenatal outcomes as well as fatal consequences, and that the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved only as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society,

"*Recognizing* that negative discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and behaviours have direct implications for the status and treatment of girls and that such negative stereotypes impede the implementation of legislative and normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex,

"*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General on ending female genital mutilation and the recommendations contained therein,

"*Welcoming also* the in-depth study of the Secretary-General on all forms of violence against women and the report of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children, and taking note of the recommendations contained therein,

"*Deeply concerned* about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition and physical and mental health care, in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys, and in their often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices, such as female infanticide, rape, incest, early marriage, forced marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

"*Welcoming* the call for Africa to be free of female genital mutilation, pledged at the African Union second Pan-African Forum on Children: midterm

review, held in Cairo from 29 October to 2 November 2007, as well as the adoption of the call for accelerated action on the implementation of the Plan of Action towards Africa Fit for Children (2008-2012),

"*Recognizing* that a comprehensive, coordinated and coherent approach to achieving abandonment of female genital mutilation worldwide is required,

"1. *Stresses* that the empowerment of girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, and calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as their commitments to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', and of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children;

"2. *Emphasizes* that awareness-raising, community mobilization, education and training are needed to ensure that all key actors, Government officials, including law enforcement and judicial personnel, health-care providers, religious and community leaders, teachers, employers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, families and communities, work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices that negatively affect girls;

"3. *Calls upon* States to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes, to mobilize girls and boys to take an active part in developing preventive and elimination programmes to address harmful traditional practices, especially female genital mutilation, and to engage communities and religious leaders, educational institutions, the media and families and provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end those practices;

"4. *Urges* States to condemn all harmful traditional practices, in particular all types of female genital mutilation, whether committed within or outside a medical institution;

"5. *Calls upon* States to strengthen the level of education for women and girls and the capacity of health-care systems to meet their needs in line with the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as this is critical for empowering them and their communities to end female genital mutilation;

"6. *Urges* States to take all necessary measures, including enacting and enforcing legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation and to protect girls and women from this form of violence, and to end impunity;

"7. *Also urges* States to protect and support women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilation and those at risk;

"8. *Calls upon* States to ensure that national action plans and strategies on elimination of female genital mutilation are comprehensive and multidisciplinary in scope, incorporate clear targets and indicators, provide for

ongoing monitoring and impact assessment and ensure coordination among all stakeholders;

"9. *Urges* States to promote, within the general framework of integration policies, effective and specific targeted measures for refugee women and women migrants and their communities, in order to protect girl children from female genital mutilation, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence;

"10. *Also urges* States to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes by, as appropriate, reviewing and revising school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilation, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of such violence against girls into education and training curricula at all levels;

"11. *Further urges* States to provide education and training on the rights of girls to families, community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of girls, such as all levels of health-care providers, social workers, police officers, legal and judicial personnel and prosecutors, in order to increase awareness and commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of girls and appropriate responses to rights violations with regard to female genital mutilation;

"12. *Urges* States to ensure the national implementation of international and regional commitments and obligations undertaken as States parties or as signatories to various international instruments protecting the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of girls and women, as well as their translation and wide distribution to the population and the judiciary;

"13. *Also urges* States to review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs, in particular female genital mutilation, that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women and girls and to ensure that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

"14. *Further urges* States to develop social and psychological support services and care and to take measures to improve health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to assist women and girls who are subjected to this violence;

"15. *Calls upon* States to develop policies, protocols and rules to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against girls, in particular female genital mutilation, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at the national and local levels to monitor adherence to and implementation of these legislative frameworks;

"16. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data on all forms of discrimination and violence against girls, especially forms that are underdocumented, such as female genital mutilation,

and to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating female genital mutilation;

"17. *Urges* States to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of legislation and action plans aimed at abandoning female genital mutilation;

"18. *Calls upon* States to develop, support and implement comprehensive and integrated strategies for the prevention of female genital mutilation, including the training of social workers, medical personnel, community leaders and other relevant professionals and ensuring that they are duty-bound to report cases of female genital mutilation and cases where they believe girls or women are at risk;

"19. *Also calls upon* States to support the re-training of traditional practitioners of female genital mutilation in alternative income generating activities;

"20. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources, targeted, innovative programmes and to disseminate best practices that address the needs and priorities of girls in vulnerable situations, such as that of female genital mutilation, who have difficulty accessing services and programmes, and in this regard welcomes the commitment of ten United Nations agencies in their joint statement of 27 February 2008 to continue working towards the elimination of female genital mutilation by, inter alia, providing technical and financial assistance to achieve this goal;

"21. *Stresses* that a common coordinated approach that promotes positive social change at the community, national and international levels could lead to female genital mutilation being abandoned within a generation, with some of the main achievements being obtained by 2015 in line with the Millennium Development Goals;

"22. *Encourages* all decision makers, at all levels, with responsibilities for policies, legislation, programmes and allocation of public resources to play leadership roles in eliminating female genital mutilation;

"23. *Encourages* men and boys to continue to take positive initiatives and to work in partnership with women and girls to combat violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

"24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and promotion of the rights of girls against female genital mutilation in their country programmes, as appropriate, and in accordance with national priorities, in order to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

"25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution using information provided by Member States and verifiable information provided by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and by non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of girls."

116. At the same meeting, the facilitator of the draft resolution, the observer for the United Republic of Tanzania, orally revised draft resolution E/CN.6/2010/L.8.

117. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary stated that, in view of the extensive oral revisions to the draft resolution, the Secretariat reserved its position in respect of any potential programme budget implications to which its adoption might give rise.

118. Also at the 19th meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/2010/L.8, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 54/7).

Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda item 3

119. At its 20th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission decided to take note of a number of documents before it (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 54/102).

Chapter III
Communications concerning the status of women

120. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 16th (closed) meeting, on 10 March 2010. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2010/CRP.4);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2010/SW/COMM.LIST/44/R and Add.1).

Report of the Working Group on Communications concerning the Status of Women

121. At its 16th (closed) meeting, on 10 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications concerning the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2010/CRP.4).

122. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to take note of the report and to incorporate it in the report on its fifty-fourth session. The report of the Working Group read as follows:

1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women met in closed meetings before the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/235 and was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given to it by the Council in its resolution 76 (V), as amended by the Council in its resolutions 304 I (XI), 1983/27, 1992/19, 1993/11 and 2009/16.

2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications and replies by Governments (E/CN.6/2010/SW/COMM.LIST/44/R and Add.1). There was no list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women, as no such communications had been received by the Secretary-General.

3. The Working Group considered the 45 confidential communications received directly by the Division for the Advancement of Women. The Working Group noted that no confidential communications concerning the status of women had been received from other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.

4. The Working Group noted that there were replies from Governments to 21 of the 45 communications received by the Division for the Advancement of Women.

5. The Working Group recalled its mandate as defined in paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, which stated that the Working Group should perform the following functions:

(a) Consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments, that

appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;

(b) Preparation of a report, based on its analysis of the confidential and non-confidential communications, which would indicate the categories in which communications were most frequently submitted to the Commission.

6. The Working Group noted that a number of communications of a general nature had been submitted as opposed to communications alleging specific cases of discrimination against individual women and girls. It also noted that several communications had brought to light the issue of the use of firearms in cases of domestic violence.

7. The Working Group discerned the following categories in which communications had most frequently been submitted to the Commission:

(a) Sexual violence against women and girls, including rape, gang rape, forced prostitution, threats of rape, sexual harassment and incitement to sexual violence through gender stereotyping and the promotion of rape in new media, committed by private individuals, teachers, detainees, and military, security and law enforcement personnel, including in detention-related situations, as well as failure by States, resulting in a climate of impunity, to exercise due diligence to prevent such violations, and to adequately and in a timely manner investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators, failure to provide adequate protection and support for victims and their families, including medical and psychological care, and failure to ensure access to justice;

(b) Other forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and especially domestic violence committed with firearms, trafficking, forced and early marriage and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation, as well as failure by States, resulting in a climate of impunity, to exercise due diligence to prevent such violations and to adequately and in a timely manner investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators, failure to provide adequate protection and support for victims and their families, including medical and psychological care, and failure to ensure access to justice;

(c) Abuse of power by military, security and law enforcement personnel, humiliation, lack of due process, arbitrary arrest and detention, failure to grant a fair trial and impunity resulting from failure by States to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators;

(d) Physical and psychological threats and pressure on victims of violence, their families and witnesses by private individuals and law enforcement officials in order to prevent them from filing complaints, or force retraction of complaints or testimony;

(e) Inhumane treatment in detention and inadequate conditions of imprisonment for women, in particular pregnant women and mothers with children born in detention, including failure to separate women and men detainees, failure to provide women inmates with access to basic medical care, failure to develop an adequate complaint mechanism for women inmates victim of gender-based violence as well as failure by States to sufficiently address such situations;

(f) Serious and systematic violations of the human rights of women and girls, some of which target specific groups, including harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, rape, torture, killings and so called "honour" crimes, as well as failure by States, resulting in a climate of impunity, to exercise due diligence to prevent such violations and to adequately and in a timely manner investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators, and failure to provide adequate protection and support for victims and their families;

(g) Intimidation, harassment, death threats against women human rights defenders, and disproportionate penalties and restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression of women human rights defenders and of the press when reporting on women's rights violations, by State and non-State actors as a means of exerting pressure on them to stop their human rights work, as well as failure by States to exercise due diligence to prevent such violations, and to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators and failure to provide adequate protection to women human rights defenders;

(h) Violations of the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, of women, especially indigenous, low-income and marginalized women in rural areas, including discrimination in access to care, denial of antenatal, post-natal care and care at the time of delivery, as well as failure to take appropriate measures to prevent and reduce high rates of maternal mortality caused by poor, inaccessible and inadequately funded health care and facilities;

(i) Impact of legislation and practices that discriminate against women in the areas of:

(i) Civil and political rights, especially right to privacy, freedom of speech and expression, freedom of movement, and participation in decision-making processes and in public life on an equal basis with men;

(ii) Personal status, including marriage and divorce;

(iii) The right to own and inherit property;

(iv) Employment, including equal pay and other forms of discrimination in the workplace;

(j) Denial of visas for visits of spouses of foreign male inmates.

8. During its consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, and consideration of the question whether any of these appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women, the Working Group expressed its concern about:

(a) Violence against women and girls, including rape and other forms of sexual violence, torture, killings and domestic violence, as well as mistreatment of women human rights defenders;

(b) Forced and early marriage and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation and their adverse effects on the full enjoyment by women and girls of their fundamental rights;

(c) The climate of impunity and abuse of power, including in many cases where violence against women, including killings and sexual violence, is perpetrated or condoned by law enforcement personnel;

(d) The failure by States, in contravention of their human rights obligations, to exercise due diligence to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls and adequately investigate and prosecute such crimes, punish perpetrators and provide compensation, protection and assistance to victims and their families;

(e) Violations of the right of women to health, including sexual and reproductive health, inaccessible and inadequately funded health care and facilities, and discrimination against specific groups of women in access to health care.

9. The Working Group appreciated the cooperation by Governments that had submitted replies to, or observations that clarified, the communications received, and it encouraged all others to make such submissions in the future. The Working Group considered such cooperation essential for it to discharge its duties effectively. From the replies received, the Working Group was encouraged to note that some Governments had carried out investigations into the allegations made and taken general measures, including enacting new legislation, conducting legal reform, introducing policies and services to better protect and assist women and victims of violence, developing national plans of action, introducing targeted measures for the promotion of women's rights, making efforts to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights by women, introducing training modules to sensitize government officials to women's issues, and improving public awareness-raising activities to promote gender equality and the advancement of women in accordance with relevant international standards.

Chapter IV
Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

123. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 15th, 16th and 20th meetings, on 9, 10 and 12 March 2010.

124. For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it a letter dated 19 November 2009 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2010/9).

Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regards to gender equality and empowerment of women

125. At its 15th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regards to gender equality and empowerment of women".

126. Opening statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General and the President of the Economic and Social Council.

127. Presentations were made by Gita Sen, Professor, Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, India; Agnes Quisumbing, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Leymah Gbowee, Executive Director, Women Peace and Security Network Africa, Accra, Ghana.

128. The Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the delegations of the following countries participated: Pakistan, Spain (on behalf of the European Union), Niger, Jordan, Thailand, Mali, Switzerland, Nepal, Israel, Brazil, Eritrea, Gabon, Italy, Rwanda, Senegal and Congo.

129. The representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) participated in the dialogue.

130. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: Ecumenical Women; and United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries (also on behalf of Presbyterian Church USA; World Young Women's Christian Association; and Lutheran World Federation).

131. At its 20th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission took note of the moderator's summary of the discussions held by the panel (E/CN.6/2010/CRP.9) and decided to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council as input to its annual ministerial review in 2010 (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 54/101).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission

132. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 20th meeting, on 12 March 2010. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/2010/L.10).

133. At the same meeting, the Commission recommended the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-fifth session to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. C).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session

134. At the 20th meeting, on 12 March 2010, the Rapporteur, Leysa Sow (Senegal), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session, as contained in document E/CN.6/2010/L.9.

135. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fifty-fourth session and decided to entrust the Rapporteur, in consultation with the Secretariat, with its completion.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

136. The Commission on the Status of Women held its fifty-fourth session at United Nations Headquarters on 13 March and 14 October 2009 and from 1 to 12 March 2010. The Commission held 20 meetings (1st to 20th).

137. The session was opened by the Chair of the Commission, Garen Nazarian (Armenia), who also made a statement.

138. At the 3rd meeting, on 1 March 2010, statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

139. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

140. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

141. At the 8th meeting, on 3 March, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women made a statement.

B. Attendance

142. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of delegations is contained in E/C.6/2010/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

143. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the officers are elected to the Bureau of the Commission for a term of office of two years.

144. At its 1st meeting, on 13 March 2009, the Commission elected the following officers to the Bureau of its fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions:

Chair:
Armen Martirosyan (Armenia)

Vice-Chairs:
Takashi Ashiki (Japan)
Leysa Sow (Senegal)
Roberto Storaci (Italy)

145. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 October 2009, the Commission elected by acclamation Garen Nazarian (Armenia) as Chair for the remainder of the fifty-fourth

session, as well as the fifty-fifth session, following the resignation of Armen Martirosyan (Armenia). The Commission also elected Julio Peralta (Paraguay) as Vice-Chair of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions.

146. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 March 2010, the Commission agreed to appoint Leysa Fay Sow (Senegal) to serve as Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

D. Agenda and organization of work

147. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 March 2010, the Commission adopted its agenda, as contained in document E/CN.6/2010/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session.

148. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/2010/1/Add.1.

E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

149. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/16, the following members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed to the Working Group of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions:

Koh Sang-Wook (Republic of Korea)

Kadra Ahmed **Hassan** (Djibouti)

150. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 March, following the resignation of Koh Sang-Wook (Republic of Korea), the Commission appointed Cho Hyung-hwa (Republic of Korea) to the Working Group of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions. The following candidates were also appointed to serve on the Working Group:

Nicolas **Burniat** (Belgium)

Julio **Peralta** (Paraguay)

Irina **Velichko** (Belarus)

F. Documentation

151. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-fourth session is available at the following website: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/54sess.htm.

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